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Latin America Report

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CARICOM MOVES TO IMPLEMENT INDUSTRY-SITING SCHEME

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Jan 87 p 7

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Monday (CANA) — Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Roderick Rainford has reported progress in work on a programme that determines where certain industries should be sited in the grouping.

The Regional Industrial Programming Scheme which has been for several years in planning finally received the green light from the Caricom Heads of Government Conference held in Guyana last July.

In a year-end review of Caricom, Rainford said that the project had received continuous attention through coordinated action at the policy and technical levels.

This was necessary, he explained, to ensure that the benefits of industrialisation were equitably shared among Caricom member states.

The scheme aims at guiding the selection, allocation and implementation of industrial projects in member countries.

Rainford reported that over the past few years efforts had been made to come to a regional understanding of what should be the criteria for designating an industry as a regional one.

These included its location, what should be the procedure for deciding the special benefits to apply to a regional industry, once it is designated, and the procedure for getting such an industry on the ground in terms of operating and producing.

The last conference of heads of government discussed how rights, duties and benefits would be clearly spelt out in a protocol.

Rainford said that in the meantime feasibility studies were being carried out to see where regional industries identified for a particular territory would require close consultation with a national industry authority in that member state.

Rainford also reported work continuing on the development of the Common External Tariff (CET), the rules of origin for goods traded in the region, and the regional scheme for harmonisation of fiscal incentives.

Over the past few months, public and private sector officials along with experts have had a series of in-depth reviews of these mechanisms to identify their shortcomings and to assess what are the requirements in terms of the new thrust for the regional economy.

Rainford said these "critical" integration instruments would help provide a basis for the future evolution of the regional economy.

SUBJECT OF U.S., UK 'INTERFERENCE' AIRED IN PRESS

Open Letter From 'Patriot'

St Johns HERALD in English 26 Nov 86 pp 1, 2, 6

[Open letter to the United States and Britain by Patriot: "We Will Brook No Interference in Our Affairs"; first paragraph printed in boldface. For a 22 November 1986 CANA report on accusations made by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird of a U.S. and British conspiracy with the opposition United National Democratic Party to take power from the ruling Antigua Labor Party, see page S 1 of the Latin American DAILY REPORT FBIS-LAM-86-227 of 25 November 1986.]

[Text] It should be clear by now that PATRIOT does not hasten to write on every subject that arises for debate in the life of our nation. It should equally be clear that when PATRIOT decides to write, the matter is of great significance. PATRIOT has judged that it is necessary to write an open letter to the diplomatic representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom who are the eyes, ears and mouth of their Governments in Antigua and Barbuda. For it is obvious that the invitation to Dr Ivor Heath, the Leader of the United National Democratic Party (UNDP), to visit the United Kingdom, was extended on the advice of the British representatives in this country,

While we in Antigua and Barbuda do not have a long history of independence and, therefore, are limited in our experience of international behaviour, we are perfectly aware that one of the cardinal principles of international relations is non interference in the internal affairs of States. This is a principle enshrined in multilateral agreements governing the behaviour of States, including the Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, very self respecting Antiguan and Barbudan, who considers our independence to be invaluable, would view the invitation of Dr Heath as deliberate and calculated interference in our internal affairs.

Let it be clear that PATRIOT is not saying that foreign Governments should not invite opposition politicians to visit their countries officially; what PATRIOT is saying is that such opposition politicians must be elected members of parliament. For in our system, as in the system of the United Kingdom

election to Parliament is the only criteria for determining political support by the people.

The invitation to Dr Heath is akin to an invitation from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to a leader of a non-elected political group in Northern Ireland. The British Government would be most unhappy if we invited the leader of one of the Irish non-elected political parties to visit Antigua officially. They should expect the same reaction from us.

No Manifestation of Support for Heath

We should make no mistake about it--Dr Heath was invited to the United Kingdom as "Political Leader of the United National Democratic Party." In doing so, the British Government has breached every known rule governing good relations between States.

In the first place, there has been no manifestation by the people of Antigua and Barbuda that they would vote for Dr Heath or any of the members of the UNDP. And, the British Government has always been very keen on such "manifestations." For instance, when the Antigua Labour Party mooted the question of independence in 1979 with Mr Nicholas Ridley, then Minister responsible for the Caribbean

in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he specifically said that he wanted "a manifestation of such a wish by the overwhelming majority of people of the territory."

Thus the Antigua Labour Party took the country to General Elections, one year ahead of time to secure such a manifestation.

Just a few weeks ago, on Tuesday, November 18, at a Conference on the Caribbean in Miami, the current British Minister responsible for the Caribbean, Baroness Young, said that Britain will act on matters in the remaining colonies in the Caribbean. "if this is the manifest wish of the people concerned." By "manifest wish" they have always meant either a referendum or a General Election.

Well, we have had no Referendum to decide whether or not the people of this country favour Dr. Heath and we have certainly not voted for him in a General Election. Thus by the very

criteria established repeatedly by the British Government, there has been no "Manifestation of the people's wish". In fact, on the basis of a manifestation by the people, the British Government should have inferred that the UNDP has no support among the people of Antigua and Barbuda, for those members of the party who actually contested the 1984 General Election, under one guise or another, received little support and many lost their deposits.

WHY NOT INVITE TIM HECTOR

As a second consideration, if the British Government wished to invite a non-elected Leader of one of the Opposition political parties, why did they not invite Tim Hector, the Leader of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM)? After all Mr. Hector has been a leader of an opposition political party longer than any in Antigua and

Barbuda.

Moreover, he has been the only genuine opposition that the Antigua Labour Party has ever had. Every sensible Antiguan knows that it was Tim Hector who masterminded the PLM campaign for them to win the 1971 General Election. And every sensible Antiguan knows that every issue raised by the plethora of opposition parties, - PLM, UPM and UNDP - was created by the ACLM and the others have simply jumped on the bandwagon.

So why not Tim Hector who actually has more qualifications to be invited than Dr. Heath? He is the longest serving leader of an opposition party and he did contest a General Election in 1980 while Dr. Heath is yet to present himself at the polls.

The reason is quite simple. The British are interested in a man whom they can control. They know that they cannot control Hector; they know from long experience with V.C.

Bird Snr. that he enjoys nothing more than teaching them a lesson and they are fearful that Lester Bird is too independent.

Thus, Dr. Ivor Heath, trained as a doctor in Scotland, a nice middle class man with nice middle class values, fits their perception of what an Antiguan leader should be. Hence, they invite Dr. Heath, as a political leader, to wine and dine him in Britain and to promote the idea that he is acceptable.

DIRECT BRITISH INTERFERENCE IN ANTIGUA'S AFFAIRS

But by doing so, they have interfered in a very direct way in the internal affairs of Antigua and Barbuda and have prejudged the verdict of the Antiguan and Barbudan people on whether or not Dr. Heath and the members of the UNDP are acceptable to us as political representatives.

This should not be tolerated and an end should be put to it right away. When this country became independent the Prime Minister promised us that we will not suffer interference from anyone. He might have meant Cuba and Moscow at the time, but "anyone" should mean "anyone" and must include the United States and Britain.

In this context, the Foreign Minister, Lester Bird, should summon the British Government representatives to this country and make the strongest protest at this interference in our internal affairs, particularly as the decision to invite Dr. Heath would not have been made at the level of the political directorate in London, but on the advice of low level Civil Servants in Antigua.

Further, our High Commissioner in the United

Kingdom should be instructed to tell the political leaders of the British Government how we feel about this matter. If we fail to do this, we will be opening the floodgates to further acts of interference in our country's affairs. Such meddling will destabilise the political order and lead to economic chaos and social upheaval.

OPPOSITION ALIVE AND WELL IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

This view has been expressed on the 'diplomatic cocktail circuit' in this country that "Antigua needs an opposition". This view is most often expressed by the diplomats accredited to this country. It is perhaps important to give these diplomats some friendly and useful advice.

First, they should not make the mistake of judging this country's political and democratic record only on their short stay here. While many of them arrived after the 1984 General Election when the ALP won all of the seats on Antigua, we have had a history of opposition.

The ALP itself is a product of opposition; opposition to the colonial Government and to British planter oppression. Further, Robert Hall could give them a lesson in how long he has been part of opposition in this country dating back to the 1960's. The point here is that opposition in Antigua is a well established and greatly cherished tradition. We do not need any foreign Government representatives to advise us on the value of opposition.

Second, the principle of opposition is enshrined in our Constitution where it is safeguarded and protected. That principle was enshrined at the constitutional talks for Antigua and Barbuda's Independence by the

ALP, the PLM and all the factions now represented in Barbuda.

Third, opposition parties flourish in this country as is obvious for all to see. Opposition parties hold public meetings, print publications, travel abroad, publicly denounce the Government and are free to question public policy. The reality is that the opposition in Antigua enjoys more freedom than they do in the United States and in Britain. For in those countries, the opposition politicians cannot interface with the population as closely and directly as they can in Antigua and Barbuda. Further, both opposition politicians and other dissenters have the right to direct access to the Government leaders in this country on the streets, in the market place, at parties, in night-clubs and on the beaches. When was the last time any ordinary person in the street approached Margaret Thatcher or Ronald Reagan and told them directly what they thought of their policies?

PARLIAMENT ONLY ONE FORUM FOR OPPOSITION

The diplomatic representatives of foreign Governments in this country are fond of saying that "there should be an opposition in Parliament". One of the Americans, no doubt with the best intentions in mind, suggested that "question time" was a very important part of parliamentary opposition. No British Civil Servant of any substance would have made that suggestion, particularly as he would know that Ministers use "question time" and questions from the opposition to good political advantage and sometimes even set up the questions in advance so that they could appear to make spontane-

ous statements to gain political mileage.

In any event, Parliament is only one forum for the expression of opposition views and it is not the most effective in the context of Antigua and Barbuda. Much more effective are the street corner Parliaments where opposition politicians can use creole and vernacular to make allegations and claims which are much more hurtful to a Government than any "parliamentary question". Maybe the representatives of foreign Governments here need to do what we do - go live, work and study in foreign countries so that they could understand the system and how it operates.

Perhaps they also need to be reminded of an observation made by Lester Bird, as chairman of the Antigua Labour Party, on the day after the ALP won the 1984 General Elections. What he said was instructive.

"Because there is only one political party in the House, it does not follow that there is only one political party in the State. As of this moment, there are four political parties which have a constitutional right to exist, to organise and to pursue political activities. If anything, I suspect that over the next few years, we shall witness a streamlining of the

opposition parties with a falling away of those which are unable to secure a genuine base in the society. What is more, the political opposition will become better organised."

Lester Bird's prediction is precisely what has happened in Antigua. We have seen a falling away of certain political parties and streamlining of at least two of them into the UNDP. But it is important for the representatives of foreign governments to note that this occurred without their interference. It is highly improper and most unacceptable for them to try to meddle in our affairs. And, in this context, we would remind them that in the same statement made after the last General Elections, the Chairman of the ALP said, "My party would welcome such a development (better organisation by a streamlined opposition) for we are committed to democracy in action, no less than in words and, as far as we are concerned, genuine and constructive opposition is good for Government and healthy for the nation"

THATCHER BROOKED NO OPPOSITION

PATRIOT recalls that when a former Foreign Secretary of Britain, Francis Pym, said after the last Gen-

eral Elections in Britain that the Conservative Party had won too great a majority and, therefore, opposition in Parliament would not be effective the Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher, shuffled him out of the Cabinet, out of the Government and onto the back benches. It hardly becomes a Government which would not tolerate opposition within its own ranks, to try to foster an opposition in a foreign territory particularly, when in the case of our country, we even tolerate opposition within the Government itself.

No, we well know the value of opposition in this country and we need no one to tell us how important it is to the democratic process. PATRIOT would simply warn every politician in this country, including those who are now flattered by the attention of the representatives of foreign Governments - if they can buy you, they will. Once bought for political power for yourself, tomorrow they may demand the price - your country's sovereign vote and your people's self respect. PATRIOT would also warn the representatives of foreign Governments not to interfere for we are easy people until we are pushed - then we are tough. Let us not be forced to get tough.

Comment on 'Unfriendly Act'

St Johns HERALD in English 26 Nov 86 p 1

[Front Page Commentary]

[Text]

Most Antiguan and Barbudans were taken aback when Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Lester Bird, who also holds the Foreign Affairs Portfolio, announced that the United States and British Governments were surreptitiously involved in moves to unseat the Ruling Antigua Labour Party.

There are two specific reasons for the initial reaction to the revelation. Firstly, the charge is a very serious

one, and the fact that it is coming from the Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister means that it should not be simply brushed aside. Secondly, both the British and American Governments are our friends and the allegations to which they are charged run contrary to accepted norms of behaviour between states with such strong ties.

Suffice it to say, the HERALD thought it imperative that we get clarification on the matter by speaking with the Parties involved.

Two weeks ago, Leader of the Opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP) Dr. Ivor Heath, left for London at the invitation of the British Government.

British High Commissioner's Representative, Mr. Brian Taylor, when asked for a comment on the visit said in a statement, "The British Government sponsors visits to the UK for persons from a wide spectrum of national life, including opposition parties and trades unions, in overseas countries. There is nothing exceptional in our having invited Dr. Heath to Britain, and nothing we have done could reasonably be interpreted as part of a conspiracy to wrest power from the ruling ALP. It is impossible to imagine what interest we could have in de-stabilising a friendly Commonwealth country."

However, it is the view of the Antigua and Barbuda Government that the move, while ostensibly described as "Normal", is a "slap in the face" to leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Mr. Eric Burton, who because of his parliamentary position, should have been selected for the visit.

"Invitations of this kind are normal for members of opposition parties, but parties which have elected seat in parliament," Deputy P.M. Bird noted.

The scenario as described by the Antiguan and Barbuda Government is that the U.S. Government along with Britain are saying they do not accept the democratic vote of the people of this country and want to elevate Dr. Heath as Leader of the Opposition and ultimately to head a post-ALP Government.

Thus, the UNDP Leader who has never faced the electorate, was invited to London for a series of high-level meetings which can be otherwise described as a crash-course in politics. This, the Americans and the British believe, should go some way in minimising the criticism against Dr. Heath that he has no political experience.

The UNDP leader is also said to have been told by the Americans, not to associate with the ACLM headed by Tim Hector. The Americans are said to fear that in an opposition coalition government, Mr. Hector will likely

to be tipped as Foreign Minister, which conjurs visions of Antigua developing close ties with Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya and East-bloc countries.

What really peeves the Antigua and Barbuda Government is that the American and British action could be viewed as overt support for the U.N.D.P. and could possibly cost the ALP votes in a future general elections. The Government sees this as unwelcomed interference in the political process of the country. It feels that Antigua and Barbuda holds free and fair elections and the people of the country has a right to decide what they want and not have foreign countries meddling in what are essentially internal matters.

The Outlet Newspaper alluded to American interference when it too, reported earlier this year that the Americans had warned Dr. Heath and his UNDP not to enter into any Alliance with the ACLM.

Antigua and Barbuda is also alarmed that the American/British action is directed against the only East Caribbean State which has demonstrated an ability to keep its economy expanding annually despite the ups and downs of the world economy.

The U.S. Embassy in Antigua is yet to comment on the allegations, but reports from Washington indicate that the Americans are saying there's no truth to the matter.

The Antigua affair comes at a time when U.S. credibility around the world is declining in the wake of proven instances of interference in the affairs of other countries. It follows such foreign affairs blunders as the Libyan dis-information campaign, the Hasenfus/Contra-Arms debacle and the Iran arms scandal, which has led to the resignation of a cabinet member and the dismissal of one of his aides.

Antigua and Barbuda wants friendly relations with both Britain and the United States, but not at the cost of their open and unrestrained interference in our internal affairs. It should be noted that Antigua and Barbuda was the only Caribbean country to support the U.S. mining of the Nicaragua Harbour, and one of the few to defend Britain in the Falkland Islands War.

This week, High Commissioner in London, Ron Sanders, due to meet with Baroness Young in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to protest the British interference.

The American and British action is deplorable and constitutes an unfriendly act. Both countries should be told that such actions can only harm the strong and historic ties between our countries.

ACLM Coverage Questioned

St Johns OUTLET in English 28 Nov 86 p 4

[Letter to the Editor, under the heading "Commentary of the Week"]

Dear Mr Editor,

[Text]

I was at the Public Meeting when Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird told the

public that the US Embassy here told Dr Heath, leader of UNDP not to co-operate with or join with Tim Hector and ACLM.

I notice Outlet said nothing about it. But you all must know that something go so. For once, you all afraid to deal with an issue. Because I know that PLM led by Halstead and Hall, ACLM led by Hector and Luke and UNDP led by Dr Heath and George Walter met to discuss several times.

You, Mr Editor, and all the ACLM executive have to know that when you all propose to Dr Heath for ACLM, PLM and UNDP to hold a number of joint meetings, leading up to a demonstration, Dr Heath and his party refuse to come with all you. Is that not so?

There was no good reason why UNDP and Dr Heath refuse to have a joint demonstration to call for the resignation of Vere Bird jr over the 11 million U.S. dollar ripoff. Is ACLM make all the exposure of the deal here, and yet UNDP and Dr Heath trying to pretend that is not ACLM leading the opposition in exposing this and nearly every issue in this country.

I was at a certain liquor store, when I heard them, the mouth-men in the UNDP, discussing the ACLM proposal for a joint demonstration of all the parties. And I can tell you, from what they said and reading between the lines that is the U.S. embassy tell them not to deal with ACLM.

I personally feel that it is terrible when a political leader like Dr Heath and them, allow themselves to be dictated to by foreign people. We don't try to tell the United States what to do whether Reagan should talk to Communist Gorbachev in Iceland or wherever, so why should they tell us who to march with. And Heath too fool. If he think the U.S. going let go Bird and back them he and he party living in a one dream world.

But, Mr Editor in closing, I believe you didn't publish nothing about all this because you all really want to form one opposition. But just how all you going form one opposition and then Heath and he party going to the U.S embassy to tell them everything you all intend to do and to get US approval before all you do it. How that going work? As soon as they tell them at the Embassy they going tell Bird. You all will go nowhere.

I not a member of no party but I feel you all in ACLM have shown real courage in standing up to Bird, and you all fight really hard to bring real democracy here, where people know what going on, and you all always have some alternative to the corrupt policy of Bird and them.

I think all you should just keep on going ahead and see if Heath party and the U.S. embassy can win one seat here. I am waiting on your comments.

In the meantime I leave you these good words:

O may your soldiers, faithful true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win them the honest victor's crown
of liberation unfurl'd.

Yours truly
Patriotic

Editor's Note: Some of what you say we know to be true. However, we cannot say whether or not the U.S. Embassy told the UNDP not to participate in a joint mobilisation of the people for the proposed demonstration. The personnel you name who attended the meetings is not correct though. Mr. George Walter was not there, nor was Mr Conrad Luke at these meetings.

The conclusions you draw are interesting, and you will note, Mr Patriotic, that

we were not afraid to publish your letter and to air the issue. You had some information, by reason of being there to hear certain discussions, which we did not have.

U.S. Response

St Johns HERALD in English 10 Dec 86 p 3

[Excerpt]

The new U.S. Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Paul A. Rosso, has denied charges that the U.S. has been interfering in Antigua and Barbuda's internal affairs.

He told Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Vere Bird, that he knows nothing and fully intends to investigate the charges that the U.S. Embassy in Antigua has been holding talks with UNDP Leader, Dr. Ivor Heath, aimed at working out a strategy to bring about the demise of the Vere Bird Administration.

Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Lester Bird, first made the charge two weeks ago, alleging that the U.S. along with Britain were conspiring to wrest power from the ALP.

That charge was supported last week by P.M. Bird when the new U.S. Ambassador paid a courtesy call.

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CSO: 3298/090

REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM USED TO ADVANCE U.S. 'IMPERIALISM'

St Johns OUTLET in English 12 Dec 86 p 14

[Editorial: "Regional Security System [RSS] Reveals Its True Color"]

[Text]

With the dispatch of armed members of the **Special Service Units** of several OECS countries to **Grenada** last week, the paramount function of the **Regional Security System** has been clearly exposed.

The Special Service Unit is a paramilitary squad, trained, armed and financed by the **United States** government and attached to the police forces of **St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia** as well as **Grenada**.

Grenada's Prime Minister, **Herbert Blaize** claimed that the military intervention in the internal affairs of a member OECS State was in response to a leftist threat. Even though no evidence was produced to substantiate his allegations, Blaize declared that the threat is real.

Yet, one needs to consider recent developments in the Spice Isle. During the historic eight month trial of the **Coardists**, there were no reported acts or threats of political violence. Indeed, the Blaize government had repeatedly stated that in the wake of the 1983 United States invasion, peace had been restored to the country. And from all reports, the people of Grenada have overwhelmingly welcomed the jury's guilty verdict and the death sentence handed down by

Justice Byron on fourteen of the defendants.

Really and truly, the only threat in Grenada, comes not from the **Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement** or from the discredited remnants of the **New Jewel Movement** but from that nation's rapidly deepening economic and social crisis and from the divisive, throat cutting ranks of Blaize's **New National Party** itself.

It is no coincidence that at the very moment the OECS paramilitary units were embarking in Grenada, Blaize chose to announce his government's intention to cut his civil service in half, thus casting some 1500 Grenadians into the ranks of the unemployed.

Blaize's declared policy was not only timely. It was deliberate! For the presence of the well armed Special Services Units and the subsequent reports that they will remain there for at least two months is clearly intended to intimidate the population and ensure that they would not dare challenge their government's unpopular retrenchment policy.

Obviously, the imagined leftist threat was but a camouflage, designed to divert the populace's attention from their economic and social stagnation, from the political crisis within the ruling

party and to hide the real purpose of the military intervention.

Apart from the SSU forces, the Regional Security System also comprises the armies of Antigua and Barbados. However, since the return to political power, Barbados' Prime Minister **Errol Barrow** has been most critical of the RSS, particularly because of its manipulation by an external superpower.

The Regional Security System was conceived and hatched in Washington. And its function, as the recent events in Grenada clearly shows is to defend the unpopular policies of unpopular governments against the legitimate, democratic attempts at peaceful protest by the Caribbean peoples. By extension, United States' hegemonic policy, its interests and assets will be safeguarded.

Antigua's Prime Minister V.C. Bird's statement at the recent OECS Heads of government meeting that the Regional Security System exists to fight communism and protect democracy is yet another camouflage aimed at justifying the presence of this armed American surrogate, the frequent military exercises in the region, codenamed **Exotic Palm, Ocean Venture, Upward Key** and the rising military expenditures in the OECS annual budgets.

Even though, the **United National Democratic Party** had applied to the Police, seeking permission for a peaceful demonstration to protest the airport US\$11 million dollar scandal, the Bird regime paraded its American trained army, in full military gear, through the crowded

St. John's streets.

The message was clear, the warning unmistakable. In reality, Bird's fight against communism really means a fight against dissent, a fight against the peoples attempts at redress and accountability, a fight against the peoples democratic right to peacefully picket and demonstrate against corruption, repressive legislation and mal-government.

Furthermore, when Bird and his ilk slander those who oppose the origin and motive of the RSS and the increasingly militarization of the region, they are in fact declaring their opposition to Caribbean sovereignty and the desire of the Caribbean peoples to maintain their region as a zone of peace.

Unable to tackle the economic and social decay in the region, our leaders hope to find salvation in surrendering their island states to the dictates of United States imperialism. Further decay, dependence and servility will be the result.

Having been stripped naked, Washington's puppets indeed face a threat. And that is the peoples' wish for genuine independence, for a better quality of life, for honest government, for real, not sham democracy.

Any such threat must be crushed. And that is why the Regional Security System and the policy of intervention in the internal affairs of member OECS States must be pursued.

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CSO: 3298/090

ATLU ORGAN SLAMS GOVERNMENT: 'YOU BETTER TAKE WARNING'

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 13 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

It is high time that we start planning exactly what course this Government intends to pursue for the remaining of its term in office. From all appearances and actions it would seem that the ALP is satisfied that since it has been returned to office some ten years ago that it has done its duty in turning the economy of this country around and so there is no need to account to anyone for anything anymore.

There is obviously a vast degree of disagreement between Cabinet ministers. Imagine a public meeting being called by the ALP where all ministers were summoned to make a mid-term report on their ministries to the public.

Only one senior minister actually reported to the public, even though the others were all around in their cars listening to the meeting. From all account no action has been taken against any of them. The public was insulted. Parliament had to be adjourned recently on the silly excuse that the Clerk to Parliament was not well. Nobody believed this nonsense. The cabinet Secretary who has acted in this position many times was well and kicking and omni-present. The real truth is that most of the ministers were away in the U.S.A. Attending the wedding of one of their colleagues. We hope that no subsistence was taken from the Treasury for this fun and frolic event.

The opposition has alleged that over one hundred thousand United States dollars was withdrawn from the Treasury within the last two weeks as subsistence for 4 or five persons who left the State to attend this function. Knowing the opposition always make wild charges simply to make the Government look bad, we swallow the accusation with a pinch of salt. Nevertheless since some people are apt to believe this nonsense then the Government should publicly refute the allegation. Our main concern here is that if Cabinet knew that half of their fellow ministers would be out of the island at the time, why scheduled a sitting of Parliament at that time, and then postpone it. It is time to take the business of the people seriously.

A minister of Government has been **accused of ripping off money from a** loan negotiated by his ministry, which made headlines world-wide, but he has never been instructed to give the public an explanation. Others have tried, but no one could convince the public as the minister himself could, but no, he prefers to remain silent. He has the ability to go on radio and T.V. to explain to the public and put the matter to rest once and for all. But no, all he gave to the public was a two minute speech.

There is a hotel being constructed somewhere to the East of Willikies, but

the public has not been told about this one, so the opposition forces have been making capital of it. They say that a government minister is involved in purchasing with others some 50 cres of government land a few years ago at \$9,000.00 per acre, and because he knew that there would be a hotel built later on, he allowed the lands to remain there until now and is making a fortune from it. While it seems too ridiculous to believe, nevertheless the public needs an explanation. These opposition people must be shown up as liars.

This newspaper accuses the Government of taking a very unfair advantage of the employees of ASIC and ADC who have been laid off many years ago. Imagine these people were once the back bone of the ATLU and the ALP. But consistent with the attitude of the present government they have no further use for the people who put them into power. They are too busy attending to their own business and 'Playing Government'. Remember all of you were once Black. You better take Warning.

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CSO: 3298/090

BIRD RESHUFFLES CABINET; FREELAND ENDS REVOLT

Bird Statement

FL010026 Bridgetown CANA in English 0013 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Text] St Johns, 31 Dec (CANA)—The political future of Antigua and Barbuda's housing and labour minister, Adolphus Freeland, appeared uncertain tonight following a government announcement that he had refused a new-look portfolio in a cabinet re-shuffle.

Prime Minister Vere Bird, in a statement tonight, said Freeland had turned down a new portfolio from which housing had been shaved and health added. Bird said he deeply regretted Freeland's decision but I will fully respect it.

The statement left unclear who would replace Freeland in the cabinet, re-shuffling of which is effective from tomorrow.

Following is Bird's statement:

I have re-shuffled my cabinet to take effect from 1 January, 1987. All members of the cabinet have accepted their portfolios except Mr Adolphus Freeland.

I deeply regret the decision of Mr Freeland not to accept the portfolio which I offered him.

The ministry would have included his original portfolio of labour, shipping, state insurance and cooperatives with additional responsibility for health, which is a most important subject for the nation as a whole.

I had relieved Mr Freeland of housing in order to allow him to concentrate on a wider portfolio which includes the vital matter of the nation's health.

Moreover, my basic thrust in re-shuffling my cabinet at this time was to rationalise and consolidate subject matters which have a close relationship. Therefore, I have linked lands and housing together.

Unfortunately, Mr Freeland has not accepted these changes, which have the full support of all the other members of my cabinet.

I deeply regret his decision but I will fully respect it.

Cabinet Changes

FL011912 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Text] St Johns, 1 Jan (CANA)--Prime Minister Vere Bird, Sr, announced a cabinet reshuffle today, reassigning his eldest son, who has been at the centre of a controversy that has proved a major embarrassment for the government.

Vere Bird, Jr, was removed from the Public Utilities and Aviation Ministry, where he oversaw a controversial airport development project, and given responsibility for public works and communications.

The opposition says the cost of the project was grossly inflated and the government has appointed a retired Grenadian judge to investigate any alleged wrongdoing in its financing.

The reshuffle was itself overshadowed by controversy with former housing and labour minister Adolphus Freeland refusing a new-look health and labour portfolio.

Freeland, now out of the cabinet, said today he needed a ministry to service his constituents and so could not accept the transfer of housing.

Prime Minister Bird said yesterday that he wanted to relieve Freeland of that subject to allow him to concentrate on the important health portfolio.

The prime minister has assumed responsibility for health, labour, information (previously held by Vere Bird, Jr) to add to his previous Defence Ministry.

In other changes, the former health minister, Christopher Omand, is now minister of home affairs while ex-agriculture minister Robin Yearwood takes on public utilities and aviation.

Former public works minister Hilroy Humphreys is now responsible for agriculture, fisheries, lands, and housing.

There were no changes in the allocation of government business in the following ministries:

External affairs, economic development, tourism and energy, held by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird,

Finance--John St Luce,

Legal affairs and attorney general--Keith Forde, and

Education, culture, and youth affairs--Reuben Harris.

Yesterday, a front-page article of the pro-government HERALD newspaper asserted that the reorganisation of the cabinet was due to a number of controversies which dogged the Vere Bird administration for much of 1986.

Bird said yesterday that the changes were an effort at rationalisation of his administration.

It is the second major cabinet reshuffle since the Antigua Labour Party was returned to office in the 1976 general elections.

Freeland Dissent

FL022218 Bridgetown CANA in English 1958 GMT 1 Jan 86

[Text] St Johns, 1 Jan (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda's former labour and housing minister, Adolphus Freeland, today expressed an interest in leading the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP)--shortly after refusing a new-look portfolio in a reshuffled cabinet.

"I will not leave the Labour Party but if I have to take over the Labour Party, I will do it," Freeland said.

"The Labour Party needs a leader, and I am convinced that the deputy prime minister (Lester Bird) has been playing around and he is not the leader that we want for the Labour Party--and I am saying so forcefully," Freeland added.

The trade unionist said Prime Minister Vere Bird, now 76, "has done his day so he too had better give way."

Prime Minister Bird last night announced a reshuffled cabinet from which Freeland was missing. Bird said Freeland had declined a new-look ministry excluding housing and with the addition of health. Freeland contended that the change in his ministry was taken on the basis of pressure put on the prime minister by a minority group of cabinet ministers.

"I understand that some of my colleagues gathered themselves together in some little committee meeting somewhere in which I was not involved and they decided to pressurize the prime minister," Freeland remarked.

He said Bird had contacted him on two occasions, assuring him that there would have been no interference with his ministry.

"On Monday, Prime Minister Bird called me and said to me, I will not reshuffle you, minister of finance and the minister of external affairs, he said [as received].

"On Tuesday morning, he called me again and he said to me I will not reshuffle you but stand by in case the minister of education does not accept health as his new portfolio; I will add health to your portfolio."

Freeland said he needed a ministry through which he could service his constituents and housing was a good one.

Freeland Capitulation

FL062314 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 6 Jan 87

[By Louis Daniel]

[Excerpt] St Johns, 6 Jan (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird completed his new year cabinet reshuffle tonight by appointing Adolphus Freeland as minister of labour and health, a post he had initially rejected.

The announcement came after Freeland apologised publicly for unflattering remarks he made about the leadership of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP). A faction of Bird's cabinet refused to work with the former trade unionist until he retracted his comments, official sources said.

Freeland, angry that housing had been taken away from him, had said the party needed a new leader and declared his eagerness for the job after criticising the deputy prime minister.

In the interest of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua Labour Party and all those kind comrades who have asked me to continue to assist, I have decided to accept my new ministry, and pledge my full support to the prime minister and leader of the party, Freeland said on radio last night.

I regret having made certain statements about the leadership of the party because of the mood I was in, he added.

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CSO: 3298/090

PROSPECTS DIM FOR FORMATION OF TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Union Leaders' Reservations

St Johns HERALD in English 10 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

Although there have been increased co-operation between trade unions in Antigua, the chances of the establishment of a Trade Union Congress (TUC) seem as remote as ever.

Leaders of the two major Trade Unions, the Antigua Trades and

Labour Union (AT&LU) and the Antigua Workers Union (AWU), whose cooperation is essential for the launching of the umbrella body, are known to have expressed reservations about whether or not such an organization can be formed anytime soon.

AT&LU General Secretary Sen. Robin Bascus,

says that although its in the workers interest if a TUC is formed, he doesn't see one coming into being until there is a change in the make-up of the present leadership of the trade unions or as he puts it, "A TUC will not be formed until the present actors leave the scene".

ATLU Leader's Views

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 13 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[R. A. Bascus column "Frankly Speaking": "Where Will It All End"]

[Text]

The other day I was invited to take part in a panel discussion at a recently held seminar in which the topic was Production and Productivity - Trade Union's concern. I shared the rostrum with the Gen. Secretary of the A.W.U. and at the conclusion of the discussion, I wondered if I was in the right job.

As I listened to my counter-part castigating employers for always wanting the last ounce of blood from workers and are never satisfied with production, and yet not a word critical of the attitude of some workers to their jobs and their performances which hinder production at times, I wondered if we were dealing with the same work-force. Nevertheless when

my turn came to speak, while I agreed with him on the attitude of employers towards maximum production at any and all costs, I always had to point out areas where workers were at fault and so their performance at times affected adversely production. Of course we were addressing representatives and workers from other unions in the island, and therefore I could understand my counter part's attitude as the political half of him played the dominant role in his contribution. You know, it is very difficult to tell people to their faces that they are also to be blamed for anything, especially workers whom you are suppos-

ed to represent. That is why sometimes I feel that I am in the wrong job.

I have noticed that some union leaders can never tell workers that they are wrong whenever the occasion arises. I sometimes wonder if they are following the officials at the Employers Federation who never advises any one of their members that may be wrong. They always try to change wrong into right. Knowing fully well that I am just a novice in the industrial field among these experienced people; I often wonder if I am so totally-wrong. After all it seems as if it is always better to tell people what they want to hear.

At that same Seminar I heard the President of the A.W.U. calling for the establishment of a Trade Union Congress. This cry seems to come from different sources every year, but I have come to the conclusion that until the present "Actors leave the stage, there will definitely be no binding of the existing unions into a Trade Union Congress. I would explain my reasons in another article later on. At the same Seminar the Government was blamed for the fact that teachers and nurses were leaving the profession regularly. Because of what happened to workers who stood up for their right from 1971 onwards, workers have lost all faith in themselves, to right their wrongs and prefer to sit back and lay the blame on some one else. Imagine there is a Teachers Union, a nurses Association and a Public Service Union, all representing their respective members and cannot compel the Government to sit down and negotiate with them. They allow the Cabinet to appoint the minister of Labour to chair a committee to review their salaries and they have not made a public protest on the matter. If there is a dispute concerning salaries or otherwise, it will eventually end up before the same minister of Labour.

How can self respecting unions tolerate such a situation. The Teachers Union has come a long way since they got rid of the politicians, who almost destroyed the union some years ago because of their individual political ambitions. There is now confidence in the Union. Let the Administration know that you are not accepting no arbitrary, magic figure arrived at by the Minister of Labour, you MUST sit and negotiate. Nothing less would do. In any such struggle you Public sector unions would have the full support of the A. T.L.U. We sit and negotiate for Government non-established workers. We expect you all to do the same and stop blaming Government for your failure to stand up for your rights. The will of the People must prevail.

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CSO: 3298/090

BRIEFS

COERCION OF WORKERS--The Management of the Cocoa Point Lodge in Barbuda commonly referred to as Cocoa Point Hotel have been coercing the Workers into signing to say that they do wish to be represented by any union according to reports reaching this newspaper. This is not the first time that the attempt has been made to coerce the Workers who are presently being represented by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union. The union and the Hotel Management is presently locked into a dispute because of the manner in which some fourteen (14) Workers were dismissed under the pretext that their jobs have become redundant. The dispute between workers and management began some three years ago when they went on strike because Management did not want to pay service charge for some guests who management said were their friends. The union is making it plain that it is its intention to ask government to revoke the work permit of any foreign management who continue to violate the laws of the Country while at the same time is trying to divide the people for their own selfish gains. From all reports coming out of Barbuda the whole aim and purpose of the Cocoa Point Management is to do every thing to assist in dividing the people of Barbuda. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 29 Nov 86 p 1] /9274

ID'S FOR FISHERMEN--It has been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Lands that several non-fishermen have been applying for Bonafide Fishermen's I.D. Cards to enable them to benefit from duty free concessions on boats, engines, etc, provided by Government. It has also been brought to the attention of the ministry that fishermen have been abusing these concessions. In an effort to address this problem the Ministry has decided that any new persons requesting Bonafide Fishermen's I.D. cards and duty free concessions should be recommended by the Fishermen's Association. In short the Fishermen's Association will act as a clearing agent to assist the Fisheries Division in order to ensure that only Bonafide Fishermen receive the benefits of the above concessions and to avoid the abuse of these benefits. The Ministry trust that Fishermen and prospective fishermen will appreciate the reason for the above decision and will co-operate with both the Fisheries Division and the Fishermen's Association in this matter. [Text] [St Johns HERALD in English 26 Nov 86 p 3] /9274

CSO: 3298/090

STRATEGY ON EXCLUSION ZONE STILL UNDEFINED

PY100222 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jan 87

[By Mario Lubiser]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 January (NA)--The fact that the government has not changed its position regarding the stoppage scheduled by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] has kept the meeting that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo held on 6 December at the presidential summer house in Chapadmalal with other ministers and presidential aides from becoming more important.

Apart from the funny incident involving Minister Caputo, whom the guards did not let enter for lack of identity documents, little or nothing was said about the meeting. However, Minister Caputo's and Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena's presence at Chapadmalal had to do with the situation that will be created regarding the Malvinas Islands issue when the economic exclusion zone established unilaterally by the United Kingdom is implemented on 1 February.

According to several sources, the government still has not drawn up a basic strategy regarding the dangerous focus of tension that will be created in the southern zone, next month, when the British begin their ostensive military patrol--sea and air--in the exclusion zone.

Apart from transferring the Naval Operations command, upon presidential orders, from the south to the federal capital in case of any military incident, no further decision has been made. Such is the case because the stance that Argentina must adopt regarding the situation of this nature is a tricky decision for a government within which there is disagreement.

One of the reasons for disagreements within the government is that [passage indistinct] the subject "sovereignty" that prevents a possible dialogue with the United Kingdom, could be dangerous for the Radical Party in this election year. However, government sectors headed by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and some people like Education and Justice Minister Juan Rajneri, and Enrique Nosiglia, member of the coordinating board [coordinadora]--are in favor of finding an urgent negotiated solution to the problem, even if it means excluding the subject of "sovereignty."

The economy minister allegedly supports the idea that a complete reassessment of the links with the United States--Great Britain's main ally--is necessary

to make foreign debt negotiations more fluid and, in turn, strictly implement the Austral Plan.

President Alfonsin allegedly has not fully dismissed the idea and mentioned something about it during an interview granted to an Italian television channel during which he belittled the strategic position of the islands that, nonetheless, are patrolled by the ad NATO fleet. However, Alfonsin must take into consideration the support a stance of this nature would mean particularly in an election year.

On the other hand, Caputo--whose position with the government is quite delicate at the moment--allegedly maintains the need to support the government's present position of "identifying with the West, but in an independent manner, an attitude which determined Argentina's participation in the nonaligned movement and President Alfonsin's participation in the peace initiative of the Group of Six."

The foreign minister's criteria--diplomatic at least--allegedly sees the need to maintain calmness and avoid any serious incidents while the exclusion zone is implemented, in the hopes that in two years time there will be an electoral shakeup in the United States and Great Britain, because President Ronald Reagan's Republic Party and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party, for the time being, do not have much of a chance of winning any elections. At the same time, Caputo, to back his stance is seeking support within the Radical Party and has established solid ties, basically, with Deputy Federico Storani and former Municipality Culture Secretary Mario Odonnel.

Moreover, the Argentine foreign policy was termed a brilliant achievement by Foreign Ministry Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe during the December debate at the Radical Party convention, over the so-called "full stop" law.

This discussion has, in a way, paralyzed the government that, as of next week when President Alfonsin dully resumes his activities after his short vacation, will have to discuss the issue urgently since time is running short.

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CSO: 3348/171

ROKER SAID TO BE BEHIND RECALL OF HAITIAN ENVOY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts]

HAITIAN CHARGE d'Affaires Evans Marc Francois has been recalled by his Government.

Mr Francois, whose two-year tour started April 1, leaves Nassau tomorrow. It is understood that National Security Minister Loftus Roker instigated the recall and that the request was communicated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Francois, who has repatriated probably a record 2,000 Haitians since his arrival, was strongly opposed to Mr Roker's forced repatriation methods of Haitians. Repatriation, and the fact that no Haitians have received Bahamian status under the terms of a treaty, led to public exchanges between the two.

At a farewell reception at the Ambassador Beach Hotel Monday, Mr Francois avoided making the traditional reference about a good relationship between the two countries.

In a telling speech made before the Governor-General, Catholic Bishop Lawrence Burke, members of the clergy, the diplomatic corps, and others, Mr Francois said:

"In spite of the difficulties of all types that I have encountered along the path that I had hoped would lead to the amelioration of Haitian-Bahamian relations, these difficulties being characterised by

the large number of Haitians living illegally here as well as the way they are treated, the Bahamas remains a country that I love, that I adore, that I appreciate.

"I love it because it has led me to discover the sincere love that I have for my fellow citizens. I adore it, because it has led me to reflect with greater maturity on the 182 years of independence of my country. I appreciate it, because Christian people have shown persistent kindness in the presence of suffering of my nationals and believe in all sincerity in a negotiated solution," Mr Francois said.

"This solution would consist of the regularisation of the illegal immigrants arriving here before December, 1980 as stipulated in the treaty of September 2, 1985. It would further include the repatriation of the other illegally arrived Haitians all in respecting human rights and dignity.

"In this perspective, the attempt of the Bahamian people, as exemplified by Rev Roger Sweeting, to carry out this repatriation with honesty and dignity is worthy of warm welcome. I must say that I do not know which hand has, up to now, been responsible for blocking the realisation of this project," Mr Francois said.

He expressed his deep gratitude to the Grand Bahama Association for Human Rights,

lawyer Fred Smith and members of churches, particularly Sister Clotilde who "has taken so much pain to help with this cause."

"The time has come for me to bid you adieu. I have been constantly aware of the large number of Haitian nationals present in your midst. As Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of Haiti, I took seriously the job of helping the Government of the Bahamas repatriate illegal immigrants with dignity and respect, while at the same time looking for understanding which should have resulted in the regularisation of those who, by their labour, have helped to make the Bahamas what it is today," Mr Francois said.

"Reasons of State require my call."

It is understood that Mr Francois became disillusioned shortly after taking up his post here in April. While he lived up to Haiti's part of the agreement on repatriation, he said the Bahamas Government has not regularised the status of Haitians who qualify under the treaty.

Although Mr Roker has stated that a large number of Haitians have received status since he took up his post in October, 1984, Mr Francois said he has no evidence that anyone has received permanent residency or citizenship since his arrival.

BY-, GENERAL-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

FNM Candidates, Plans

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Kendal Isaacs took the opportunity of radio and television exposure last night to introduce eight new Free National Party candidates to contest the next general elections.

Mr Isaacs also used his air time on the final night of the Torchbearers convention to make a major party policy statement committing the FNM to improving conditions for the Bahamian people.

The eight candidates introduced last night were Messrs. Alvy Penn (Englerston), Tommy Turnquest (Yellow Elder), Dr Nigel Lewis (Nichool's Town, Andros), Fred Gottlieb, (Marsh Harbour, Abaco), Anthony Miller (Rock Sound, Eleuthera), McKallan Stubbs (Fort Charlotte), Elliott Lockhart (George Town, Exuma and Ragged Island) and Frank Rolle (Bimini/Berry Islands).

The inspirational music from the movie "Chariots of Fire" played loudly as Mr and Mrs Isaacs were escorted to the Torchbearers podium by the party's candidates and supporters waving red, white and blue pom-poms "LO Got To Go, LO Got to Go!" the entire crowd took up the chant becoming stronger as the music stopped.

Mr Isaacs made it clear that

corruption would not be tolerated by an FNM government. "If there are any persons around us with ambitions of bagmen, rip-off artists and corruptors, I say to them very simply, you might as well get lost!"

"If we are to survive as a happy and prosperous nation it is absolutely essential that we put our traditional values back where they belong and that is foremost in the minds of our people."

Mr Isaacs said that the entire leadership of the Bahamas and all sectors of society, "the religious leadership, the social and civic leadership, the trade unions and the commercial leadership," must pull together for the nation's survival.

"I am sure that you will understand that tonight I can only give you a brief glimpse of the plans we have drafted for the reconstruction of our country."

• "We can see that our country is blessed with many advantages and with God given advantages and with hard work and sensible planning the Commonwealth of the Bahamas can enjoy full employment and prosperity."

Mr Isaacs said that an FNM government will work towards this imperative objective "but we will not make silly or

dishonest promises like predicting full employment by 1988 when we know full well it is not possible."

• "Agriculture and mariculture must be and will be tackled on two broad fronts: Increased production and marketing since one is useless without the other. We will take the best advice available on both these fronts."

He said that the most exciting prospects for diversification lie with the development of agriculture and mariculture. "We are fully convinced that our land our waters can produce a great deal more for our consumption and export."

• "For those families and individuals who are living in and paying mortgages on low cost and modest homes, we will abolish the real property tax. We think it counter productive to encourage and assist these people to get homes and then slap a tax on them."

The FNM Leader said that his government would explore the possibilities of applying low interest money so as to reduce the weight of mortgage payments in these categories.

• "An FNM government will restore the \$200 per annum customs duty exemption for Bahamians returning from abroad."

• "An FNM government will most certainly expand and

promote our tourism industry which has provided us with great economic benefits over the years."

- "We will step up the rate of diversification of the economy and towards this end we will encourage more light industries including textiles, electronics, processed foods, household items, plastics and chemicals."

He promised that an FNM government would create the machinery to monitor industries, "guard against pollution and protect and preserve our environment for the enjoyment of future generations."

- The Delaporte MP said that with an FNM government a reduction would be given on the existing high rate of duty on inexpensive cars to make them more affordable for families and individuals in the low and

middle income brackets.

He said that something would have to be done about the road conditions and traffic congestion.

Mr Isaacs paid special attention to the nation's drug epidemic and how it had gripped the youth. "I am told that in the adolescent unit at Sandilands, 11 of the 27 adolescents (ages 11-15) have primary diagnosis of cocaine addiction."

"I understand that entertainment places for young people are infiltrated with drugs...young people claim that even after being drug free they are offered drugs when they go out to enjoy themselves."

- He said that the need for "drug free" entertainment facilities to be provided by the community - the government, the churches, civic organisa-

tions, must be united with law enforcement, rehabilitation and education must work together for this end.

- The development of in-patient and out patient drug treatment facilities at Sandilands would be of paramount importance to the FNM.

- He said that special education programs will be launched in the schools and youth centres will be developed.

"We acknowledge that we do not have all the answers but we believe that with our leadership, the ingenuity of our people as a whole will be brought to bear on our enterprises."

Mr Isaacs said that there would be constant dialogue with the nation's citizens. "We will not arrogantly close our ears to any sector of the community because we know that from humblest origins sometimes comes the greatest wisdom."

PLP By-Election 'Fraud'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Dec 86 pp 1, 12

[Text]

THE Progressive Liberal Party will call a bye-election to fill the vacant St Barnabas seat rather than hold a general election, PLP chairman Sean McWeeney said today.

"We regard that as the logical thing to do," said Mr McWeeney. "That logically flows from the court's decision."

The Election Court on Friday declared void the June 30 St Barnabas bye-election in which PLP candidate Dr Matthew Rose was declared the winner.

The opposition Free National Movement's candidate Edmund Moxey complained of numerous irregularities including the fact that the wrong register of voters was used. He asked the court to void the bye-election.

The Election Court judges - Chief Justice Telford Georges and Justice Sir Denis Malone - agreed with Mr Moxey's submission, which was presented on his behalf by lawyer Michael

Scott.

Government has until August to call a general election but, instead of calling early elections, Government has opted to contest the St Barnabas seat again.

"Naturally we are back to square one, being the fact that there continues to be a parliamentary vacancy in St Barnabas which has to be filled," said Mr McWeeney. "It is a constitutional imperative that has to be met in filling that vacancy."

He pointed out that the PLP has until August to call a general election. A bye-election on the other hand, he said, has to be held within 60 days of the Speaker of the House of Assembly being notified.

He said that the FNM's position all along was that they wanted the bye-election conducted again. That does not now seem to be their position, he said.

Mr McWeeney said that from

a legal perspective, he was not surprised at the outcome of the Election Court hearing.

"Courts are more often than not, unpredictable," said Mr McWeeney. "So much depends on the nuances of legal arguments. Happily, the law has not been clarified and that augurs well for us in the bye-election and the general election."

He said the PLP's chances of regaining the seat are "excellent. Superb. We are rearing to go. If there has been a change it is in favour of the PLP. I think we will do much better this time than we did the last time."

Asked what is the party's view of the Election Court ruling, he said: "I don't think there is a collective view in the sense that we have sat down and analysed the judgment on a collective basis."

However, from his personal perspective, Mr McWeeney said: "I was not surprised at the court's decision. I thought the

judgment was well reasoned and we intend to abide by the decisions of the court and conduct ourselves accordingly. Politically, we are not disappointed at all. It gives a fresh opportunity to reason with the people and prove that we are number one."

PLP By-Election Plan

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

THE BOUNDARIES Commission has proposed that the 43-member House be increased by six members in the next general elections.

The Commission, chaired by House of Assembly Speaker Sir Clifford Darling, has recommended five new constituencies for New Providence and one for Grand Bahama.

Pine Ridge MP Mr Cecil Wallace Whitfield, the only Opposition member on the Commission, dissented. He did not sign the majority report, but put in his own minority report, which represents the position of the Free National Movement.

"I am unable to justify an increase by five in the number of constituencies in New Providence since the number of voters in New Providence has increased by only about 1,500 since the last elections," said Mr Whitfield in his report.

Other members of the Commission were Mr Justice Sir Denis Malone (vice chairman), Tourism and Foreign Affairs Minister Clement Maynard, and North Long Island MP Philip Smith.

The new constituencies proposed for New Providence are Marathon, Sea Breeze, Garden Hill, Stapeldon and Golden Gates. The new constituency in Grand Bahama is Eight Mile Rock.

If the House approves the

commission's recommendations the creation of the five new constituencies will change the boundaries of 25 other constituencies.

In his minority report, Mr Whitfield pointed out that in 1982 three new constituencies were created in New Providence.

At the general election in 1982, the number of registered voters in New Providence was 53,654. Presently the number of registered voters in New Providence is 55,136 being about 1,500 more than in 1982.

Mr Whitfield considered the proposal to increase the number of constituencies in New Providence by five "unjustifiable, unnecessary and contrary to the intent, spirit and purpose of our Constitution."

"I would have recommended a redistribution of constituencies consisting of an average of 2,300 voters in each constituency rather than an increase of five in number of the constituencies in New Providence," said Mr Whitfield.

The proposed dismantling of Pine Ridge and Marco City in Grand Bahama, he said, "is yet another example of the government's intent to gerrymander. I could have thought that both of those constituencies would have remained intact except insofar as it is necessary for the purpose of creating a new constituency," said Mr Whitfield.

The Government's proposal and report, he said, is inconsistent with keeping the Pineridge and Marco City voters together in their units and the intent at gerrymandering is clear - both constituencies are being dismantled.

He pointed out that in Andros there are less than 3,400 voters making up three constituencies with 1,534, 952 and 882 voters respectively, all represented by Government Ministers - Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and Ministers Darrell Rolle and Loftus Roker.

Mr Whitfield said there are no special considerations such as the needs of sparsely populated areas, the practicability of elected members maintaining contact with electors in Andros, size, physical features, natural boundaries and geographical isolation for Andros as far as constituencies redistribution is concerned to be treated any differently from Abaco, Eleuthera and parts of Grand Bahama.

Abaco, said Mr Whitfield, has 3,608 voters and has two constituencies or roughly 1,800 voters per constituency; Eleuthera with 5,034 voters has three constituencies with an average of 1,700 voters per constituency. Andros on the other hand, he said, with 3,368 voters - almost 300 voters less than Abaco - has three constituencies.

"I would have recommended

that the number of constituencies in Andros be reduced to two with each constituency in Andros consisting of an average of 1,700 voters," said Mr Whitfield. "The one seat thus removed from Andros would then be transferred to Grand Bahama where the present voters who have been able to register number 8,696.

"Had there not been a deliberate scheme to slow up registration in Grand Bahama and thus show only 8,696 at November 30, 1986, the number of registered voters in Grand Bahama would have been appreciably higher."

Government, he said, was legally required to have commenced the registration of voters before February 13, 1986 so that a new register of voters would have been in preparation when the old register expired on January 31, 1986.

"The Boundaries Commission ought to have met long before 48 hours before it was required to perform its constitutional functions and the Government's failure timeously to compile information for the use of the Boundaries Commission is not sufficient justification for the Opposition to be railroaded into accepting the recommendations proposed by the Government," said Mr Whitfield.

He said he would have been prepared to support a recommendation to the effect that regard being had to all circumstances including short notice of the Commission's meeting, lack of verification of the numbers produced, access to up to date aerial photographs and the need for accuracy, the Commission would report that while progress is being made, additional time is required for the work of the Commission to be properly completed.

"The Commission's purpose is not to gerrymander or rubber-stamp the proposals of the Government," said Mr Whitfield. "Forty-three constituencies for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is clearly an adequate number."

He said an argument might be advanced based upon the numbers of voters registered in Exuma (1,484) and Long Island

(1,820) for each of these areas to be single constituencies rather than double constituencies thus reducing the total number of constituencies to 41.

"The present recommendation to add six constituencies is objected to on the further grounds that by continually adding constituencies to Parliament indicates an unwillingness to implement local government.

"Adding six more constituencies would move the country in the wrong direction - away from local government - and will continue the system whereby the Member of Parliament is representative for both national and local government matters thereby depriving our citizens from a more active and meaningful participation in the machinery of governing their own affairs locally," said Mr Whitfield.

Additionally, stated Mr Whitfield, the creation of six new constituencies carries with it the obligation for tax payers to provide three quarters of a million dollars in salaries for six more members, added election expenses in Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and Clerks which Prime Minister-Minister of Finance Sir Lynden Pindling has implied the country cannot afford when police officers, teachers and others in the public service have been denied increases in salaries.

"The boundary changes and creation of six new constituencies," said Mr Whitfield, "are analogous to what the UBP did in 1965 which caused 'Black Tuesday.' I cannot support the Government's recommendations and the Opposition will oppose the recommendations as being against the public interest."

The new constituency of Marathon begins at the junction of Jean Street and Prince Charles Avenue, north along Jean Street to Bernard Road, then west along Bernard Road to the junction of Village and Wulff Roads, then west to Minnie Street and south to Balfour Avenue and east to Claridge Road, southwards to Robinson Road and east back to Jean Street.

The new Sea Breeze consti-

tuency begins at the junction of Yamacraw Hill Road and Fox Hill Road, east to Colony Village Road, north to Prince Charles Avenue and west to Beatrice Avenue, south to Golf Course Boulevard and on to the Sea Breeze Waterway, east along the southern coast of New Providence to Fox Hill Road and north to the point of beginning.

The new Garden Hill constituency begins at the junction of Independence Drive and East Street, east to Robinson Road, on to Old Trail Road, south to Windsor Place and then to Alexandria Boulevard then to Sappodilla Boulevard on to Pigeon Plum Street and south to Pinewood Drive then west to Bamboo Boulevard, on to East Street and then to the point of beginning.

The new Stapledon constituency begins at the junction of Hawthorne Road and Farrington Road, west to John F Kennedy Drive to Harrold Road to the Thomas A Robinson Sports Stadium and back to Hawthorne Road.

The new Golden Gates constituency begins at the junction of Cow Pen Road and South Beach Road, south to the high water mark of the sea, and west along the southern coast of the island to a point where South Ocean Golf Course Road meets the high water mark of the sea, and then north to Adelaide Road and east to Carmichael Road, along Carmichael Road to a road between Golden Gates Estate No 2 and Golden Gates Addition no 2, then south to the southern limit of Golden Gates Addition no 2, then westward to the southeastern corner of Golden Gates Addition no 2 and south to Cow Pen road.

The new constituency of Eight Mile Rock in Grand Bahama begins where Sapodilla Road meets the high water mark on the southern coast of Grand Bahama, then north to the centre line of Sapodilla Road then east to the junction of Hawksbill Creek and Little Hawksbill Creek, north to the high water mark and south to Queen's Highway and further south to West Sunrise Highway, to Ranfurly Circus, then south

along the South Mall to Lunar Boulevard and west to Ocean Hill Boulevard to where the continuation meets the high water mark of the sea on the southern coast of Grand Bahama and then west to the point of beginning.

New House Seats

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE PLP Government perpetrated an election fraud and now stands condemned by the law and by the people, the Opposition said after Friday's major political victory at the election court.

The election court upheld the Opposition's contention that the expired 1982 voters register was used in the June 30 St Barnabas bye-election, and ruled that the election was void.

"The St Barnabas bye-election was a fraud. It was stolen from the people by the Progressive Liberal Party and that party and its Government now stand condemned by the law and by the people," the FNM said in a victory statement to the Press.

Government can now either call a bye-election within 60 days, or stall and dissolve Parliament. General elections must be held within one month after Parliament is dissolved. Using the second formula, this means that a general election would have to take place within three months.

"It would appear that the 'lucky' ten has now been reversed," FNM St Barnabas candidate Edmund Moxey said today. He was referring to Sir Lynden's penchant for the number 10. Yesterday was December 19. Mr Moxey said that one plus nine makes 10.

The court ruling shot down Government's position - which would have been made on the advice of the Attorney General -

that the old register would not die until next year and struck a blow to its already strained credibility.

Prime Minister Lynden Pindling claimed May 26 that the register, which expired in April this year, would not die until 1987 because it was a "corrected" register. The Opposition immediately protested that the register had expired.

On December 11, National Security Minister Loftus Roker, who is responsible for voters registration, announced that the 1982 register would expire February 1. The announcement would have presumably followed on the advice of Attorney General Paul Adderley.

"The finding of the election court is a serious indictment against the Government which should have serious repercussions because of the fact that the Government has been caught in a political fraud," Mr Moxey said. He called upon Government to resign immediately over the election "and other corruption."

Dr Matthew Rose, the MP for St Barnabas, must now vacate his seat in the House only six months after he was elected. Dr Rose was only sworn in to the House 14 weeks ago. He made his maiden - and only - speech during the anti-drug Bill debate.

The Tribune was unable to contact Dr Rose today for comment.

The FNM said today it views as a triumph of justice the election court's declaration.

"The Free National Movement, before the June election, drew it to the attention of the Government that the proposed register under which the election was to be conducted had expired, and right up until a few days before the election we attempted to have it stopped," the FNM said.

"The Attorney General personally became involved in the situation and the election took place. Right up until the day of the election the Progressive Liberal Party was engaged in the shameful transfer of votes to the constituency, as the Government was determined to win that election, by whichever means possible.

"On election day the entire Government entourage descended on St Barnabas, and by their presence and insistence constituted victimization and intimidation of the residents and voters of St Barnabas. The Prime Minister himself manned one of the polling stations and even ran into one or two altercations with persons not inclined towards the PLP."

The FNM said that its position has now been reinforced by the decision of the election court.

"It cannot be forgotten that during the St Barnabas bye-election, only 50 percent of the voters on the register used actually voted, and there is little

doubt that the majority of those who stayed away from the polls did so either out of apathy or fear of victimization," the FNM said.

"These things are unhealthy signs of a society whose democracy is threatened. That is not the sort of society we in the Bahamas want to have, and we in the Free National Movement are determined to do something positive about these conditions in 1987."

The FNM said that this year has been one of much turmoil for the Bahamian people.

"It is time for Mr Pindling and his crew to pack their bags and quietly go or follow in the footsteps of Mr Chambers in Trinidad," it said.

"We have all had enough. We are weary of the tales of corruption. We are tired of the bad-mouthing this country gets abroad. We are sick of seeing the once proud image of this country blackened by the antics of an inept and uncaring government. We do not want to have to go to court - as we did in the case of St Barnabas - to secure the rights of the people. We want to erect a government where those rights already sacrosanct and enshrined in our declaration of commitment."

Yesterday's election court ruling now raises the question of whether the voter's register which opened in February, 1986 in "preparation" for the new register - and which the court has determined is the current register - will by Government's position expire in April, 1987 when Mr Roker said that the 1982 register would expire.

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CSO: 3298/092

PLP CRITIC INGRAHAM THREATENED, ALERTS POLICE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Dec 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

TWO PLP officers threatened Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham over the weekend, Mr Ingraham said in a letter written to Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett today.

Mr Ingraham, who has been critical of the Pindlings in and outside Parliament, said that one of the supporters of the Prime Minister, Mervin "Moo Moo" Morris, told him that if he did not stop speaking about the Pindlings, he "would not be around on Monday."

Mr Ingraham also said that some derogatory comments were made about his family. In his letter to Mr Bartlett, he said he holds "Sir Lynden personally responsible for the actions of his supporters and/or agents."

His letter to Mr Bartlett reads:

"I write in connection with two incidents which occurred on Saturday, 6th December, 1986 involving firstly, Mr Mervin Morris, alias "Moo Moo" and secondly, the same Mervin Morris and Mr Felix "Mailman" Bowe, PLP Officer in the Salem Branch and PLP National General Council Member for the Kemps Bay

Constituency respectively.

"On Saturday, 6th December, while conversating with several persons at the Andros Inn Restaurant about the alleged ownership of the drug store situate in the Cable Beach Hotel and the reputed ownership of Lady Pindling in a beauty salon mentioned in a report by Inspector Richter at the Commission of Inquiry, I was interrupted and challenged by Mr "Moo Moo".

"During the course of his discourse, Mr "Moo Moo" stated that if I did not desist from speaking of and/or about the Pindlings in Parliament and elsewhere, I would 'not be around on Monday' when it was expected that the question of the truthfulness of Sir Lynden's evidence at the Commission of Inquiry in relation to certain shares in Bahamas Catering Limited would be raised in Parliament. This threat followed upon reports of remarks by Lady Pindling to the effect that I would not be around for long!

"A number of other persons, like myself, formed the view that Mr "Moo Moo" was threatening me with physical

harm. It should also be noted that he said he would report the matter to Lady Pindling immediately.

"Sometime later, after both he and I left, I am advised that Mr "Moo Moo" returned with "Mailman" and another person. I am further advised that he and/or "Mailman" stated that they had come in search of me and repeated threatening remarks similar to those aforementioned.

"I am further advised that these remarks were made in the presence of Senior Police Officer Garth Johnson and other persons. These remarks by these two persons follows upon threats made to me by Mr Percival Munnings, Treasurer of the Progressive Liberal Party, in Treasure Cay on the 18th October, 1986.

"I bring these matters to your attention for whatever action you deem appropriate and/or necessary. For my part, I hold Sir Lynden Pindling personally responsible for the actions of his supporters and/or agents.

HUBERT A. INGRAHAM
December 8th 1986

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CSO: 3298/092

EX-PLP INGRAHAM SAYS PINDLING TOOK MONEY FROM DEFUNCT UBP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and his PLP accepted political contributions from a minister of the former minority United Bahamian Party (UBP), Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham told the House Thursday.

Recalling events that started in 1976 when he was nominated for the Cooper's Town seat, Mr Ingraham said he was startled by the extent to which the two got on and seemed to know each other.

In 1976, he said he received a contribution by cheque from a former UBP minister and a note. Mr Ingraham did not know the minister and, as far as he was aware, the minister did not know him. The note told Mr Ingraham he was the kind of person the minister would like to see in Parliament, he said.

Mr Ingraham said he was a little offended at the time and he either showed the Prime Minister the cheque or told him about it.

"I was absolutely startled and amazed to discover that the Prime Minister too had received a cheque," he said.

Secondly, Mr Ingraham discovered that the UBP member had been making monthly \$500 donations to the PLP "for quite some time."

Subsequently, Mr Ingraham said he had an opportunity to engage in conversation with the minister, who he did not name, and the Prime Minister and again was startled by the extent to which they got on and seemed to know each other.

He said he accepted the cheque and got another cheque in 1982.

Mr Ingraham said that as far as he is aware, both the governing and opposition parties have former UBP supporters in the House. He said that two are on the opposition bench and four sit on the government side.

Both parties receive funding and political contributions from former UBP's, he added.

In Mr Ingraham's judgment, neither party is controlled by the UBP in any way and as far as the UBP is concerned, it is really a dead matter. He said that an analysis would show that there are former UBP's on both sides and they are spreading their money both ways.

Those who continue to "whip the bogeyman horse of the UBP" do so without reality, he said.

Mr Ingraham said that of the six Government Members who were in the House in 1967 as PLP's, excluding the Speaker, "not one of the remaining original PLP's supports the leadership of the Member for Kemp's Bay."

"All of them have abandoned him," he said.

Mr Ingraham said that there is no major philosophical difference between both parties, which share very similar views.

This is why he was delighted to hear Opposition leader Kendal Isaacs put his party's case Monday so that it could be viewed alongside the one of the Governing party, he told the House. Mr Ingraham said that Mr Isaacs' budget address was quite good and seemed to make good sense.

"I am no FNM and I don't propose to join the FNM. I've been kicked out of the PLP and I'm just here right now," Mr Ingraham said.

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CSO: 3298/092

FNM DISPUTES NOTTAGE CHARGES OF GUNS, AMMUNITION, DRUGS

Nottage Allegations

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Dec 86 pp 1, 14

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text]

ST AGNES MP, Kendal Nottage, last night called it his duty to warn the Bahamian people about the alleged "stockpiling of weapons, ammunition, drugs and drug money by the FNM in preparation for the 1987 general elections."

A policeman estimated a crowd of about 450 persons at the PLP's Columbus Primary rally last night. The rally was a continuation of last Thursday's rally, which was aborted by rain. The rain interrupted Mr Nottage's speech, and forced the cancellation of the Prime Minister and his deputy's speech last Thursday.

However, the Prime Minister, brightly dressed in a yellow sports jacket, green trousers and an open necked, floral

shirt, spoke briefly last night. He was in festive spirits announcing that last night's rally could be the last for 1986.

"I wish I could make love to all of you here tonight," he remarked. The crowd - both young and old broke - into frenzied squeals. "It might be a tall order but you know I'll try anything at least once," said Sir Lynden.

The day after Mr Nottage had made his accusations against the Opposition party, Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett said no one had made a complaint to him about any stockpiling of guns, ammunition and drugs.

However, standing firmly behind his allegations Mr Nottage said he did not intend to cause mischief.

"I love the Bahamas just like every single red-blooded Bahamian and I sounded a warning so that those who are about to create mischief could be warned that I have told the people."

He said he was warning the people that there are enemies who are planning to harm the country.

"I say this tonight, certain elements of the FNM have been conducting a shuttle operation

between points in Grand Bahama Lucaya, the waterway in the island of Grand Bahama and a place called Peterson Cay, just off Grand Bahama."

Mr Nottage said the waters around Peterson Cay have become a drop for the operators conducted by certain elements of the FNM. "This shuttle operation in Grand Bahama between Peterson Cay and points in the waterway was being conducted as late as November 1986," he claimed.

"I call on the FNM to check the facts," said the former cabinet minister. "They have people and members and elements in their organisation who could verify those facts."

Mr Nottage said that when they say that he has lied he will then say more.

"Recently," he said, "there was an attempt by the FNM, Shirleya MP Pierre Dupuch, in the House of Assembly to connect Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling with drug smuggler Lamar Chester saying that the PM had gone against government policy and granted permission to Mr Chester for the construction of an airstrip after it had been refused by the Minister of Aviation."

(This is not correct. In the

House Mr Dupuch had asked Mr Maynard if it were correct that he had turned down a licence for an airstrip at Darby Island, but that a week after Prime Minister Pindling had met at Staniel Cay with Lamar Chester and banker Don Aberle a licence was granted for an airstrip at Lamar's Darby Island. Mr Dupuch had not accused the Prime Minister of granting the licence. It later transpired in the House that Mr Maynard as Minister of Aviation had granted the licence. However, Mr Dupuch brought affidavits to show that the Prime Minister and Chester had met at Staniel Cay).

Mr Nottage said it had also been suggested by James Knowles that \$10,000 had been paid to the Prime Minister for

something. He said Mr Knowles had also suggested that the money could have been given to the PM in a jar which looked as if it contained jam.

"These are very serious allegations but, what did the FNM do?" Mr Nottage said that the FNM decided to hide behind the privilege of the House of Assembly "in their vile attempt to malign the character of our beloved Prime Minister."

He charged that the Commission report disclosed that the FNM had offered Lamar Chester Bahamian citizenship in exchange for his silence on certain matters.

"This man Chester refused to accept the FNM's offer and he came before the Commission and he gave the Commission certain information."

He said that it was strange that nowhere in his evidence given to the Commission of Inquiry did Chester ever refer to this evidence which recently came up in the House of Assembly "because it never happened."

Nottage said that from the evidence, which Mr Dupuch gave in the House of Assembly, Craig Symonette of Symonette Shipyards was a sub-contractor for certain marine operations at Norman's Cay and certain building construction at Darby Island.

He said that at Norman's Cay, the building was constructed for Joe Lehder and the Darby Island construction was done for Lamar Chester.

Deputy Prime Minister Maynard also addressed the crowd last night.

Whitfield Rejoinder

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Dec 86 pp 1, 14

[Text] Kendal W. Nottage, described as having "a criminal mind," came under fire in the House of Assembly yesterday for alleging that the opposition Free National Movement has been stockpiling guns, ammunition and drugs in preparation for the 1987 general elections.

Pine Ridge MP Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, deputy leader of the FNM, unleashed a vitriolic attack on Mr Nottage calling him "a preposterous liar" and threatening to sue him for slander.

When asked by House Speaker Sir Clifford Darling if he was referring to the Member of Parliament for St Agenes, Mr Whitfield said he was speaking about one Kendal Wellington Nottage.

Mr Whitfield was speaking on a Bill for an Act to amend the Liquor Licences Act when he took issue with "a criminal mind that has sought to libel" the FNM Members of Parliament for Grand Bahama.

He said he was speaking about a statement attributed to Mr Nottage that the FNM was stockpiling guns, ammunition and drugs between Grand Bahama and Andros.

Mr Whitfield then referred to a letter Montagu MP Orville Turnquest, on behalf of the FNM, wrote to the Commissioner of Police complaining of the allegations made by Mr Nottage.

The letter, which was read by Mr Whitfield in Parliament, stated that Mr Turnquest was authorised by the Leader, Parliamentary Members, Officers and the Executive of the FNM "to bring formally to your attention serious criminal

allegations which have been publicly made by Mr Kendal W. Nottage, MP, against the Free National Movement, as an organisation, and certain unnamed members thereof."

The recording of Mr Nottage's speech, stated the letter, includes charges that FNM is engaged in the build up of an illegal cache of weapons and ammunition; that this illegal arsenal is stored partly in Grand Bahama and partly in Andros; that he knows the locations of these secret armouries and that, if challenged, he would disclose the details.

"These accusations of planned violence and murder fall far outside the realm of political rhetoric, and breach (either by the accuser or the accused) the criminal law of the land," Mr Turnquest said in the letter.

"These charges, if true, can only mean that the leaders of the FNM are involved in criminal activity of the most horrific and dangerously explosive proportions, aimed at consequences leading to nothing short of mass-murder, blood baths and possibly riots and civil war," the letter to the Commissioner of Police stated.

If the charges are untrue, stated Mr Turnquest, "then Mr Nottage is himself guilty of irresponsible and slanderous falsehoods aimed at inciting civil unrest and political confrontations, and thereby promoting breaches of the peace. This is in itself criminal behaviour which is prohibited under our Penal Code.

"My colleagues and I would firstly formally require to know from you whether any of these serious charges, or any information relating thereto, had been brought to the attention of yourself, or any of the law enforcement agencies, by Mr Nottage, or anyone else, so that the same could be officially investigated.

"If not, and in any event, we would now earnestly request that, as a matter of grave and serious urgency, you put in hand a thorough and immediate investigation into the charges publicly laid by Mr Nottage against the Leaders, Officers and Members of our Party, including, as you know, eleven Members of Parliament and four Senators.

"We wish, for the record, to advise you that all of my colleagues deny any knowledge of any of the matters alleged by Mr Nottage, and we wish to assert our horror and alarm over the preposterous and desperate attempts to implicate us in charges of such heinous and seditious activity, which we universally condemn and abhor," said Mr Turnquest in the letter to the Commissioner of Police.

In tabling Mr Turnquest's letter to the Commissioner of Police, Mr Whitfield said Mr Nottage was "a preposterous liar." He said Mr Nottage's allegations were "a total fabrication of lies made up by him (Nottage) in his own criminal mind for his own political purposes. I have already advised him too to set aside two to three million dollars of that \$12 million which he has accumulated because I am going to sue him for slander."

House Speaker Sir Clifford Darling interrupted Mr Whitfield to tell him that that matter was not before the House. Mr Whitfield said it was. Sir Clifford said Mr Whitfield was bringing into the debate something differently than what was before the House.

Mr Whitfield pointed out that Mr Nottage used to be a Member of the House for Grand Bahama "and if any arms was in Grand Bahama, then he is the person who must have left them there. If any drugs were there, he must have left them there. I am sure that none of the present Members for Grand Bahama, including the Member for West End (Moses Hall of the PLP) would have anything to do with collecting arms or drugs for inciting any riot...and if anybody has any kind of intentions there, it must be Mr Nottage himself."

Sir Clifford interjected again to say that since Mr Whitfield was addressing Mr Nottage, then the rules of the House say Mr Whitfield must address Mr Nottage by the name of the constituency he represents.

Mr Whitfield said he was not addressing Mr Nottage. He said he had not mentioned one thing to the Members for St Agnes.

"Since you are addressing him in the House," said Sir Clifford, "the rules say you must address that person by the constituency which he represents.

"I am not addressing the Member for St Agnes," said Mr Whitfield, "I am talking about a fellow named Kendal W. Nottage whom the Commission of Inquiry found was fronting for Caruana and whom they found that Caruana was being paid \$10 for every pound of marijuana that he brought through the Bahamas."

"The point I am trying to make here is," continued Sir Clifford, "the rules of the

House state that you must address the Member by the Constituency he represents."

Mr Whitfield said he was not talking about the good people of St Agnes "because they know what to do with him (Nottage) when their time comes."

Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham, on a point of order, said he was offended that Mr Whitfield is able to say that a Member of the House "has a criminal mind and you have not taken objection. The Member (Nottage) has not taken objection, but I do. I take objection to (Mr Whitfield) who said that (Mr Nottage) has a criminal mind."

Sir Clifford said Mr Whitfield was speaking about "one Kendal Nottage" which was why he asked Mr Whitfield to address this Kendal Nottage by the constituency which he represents.

"It will remain on the record of this House that one gentleman by the name of Kendal Wellington Nottage is a man with a criminal mind, and this gentleman has stored in Grand Bahama arms, ammunition and drugs," said Mr Ingraham.

Mr Whitfield said he had no intention of referring to any Member of the House. "I am referring to one Kendal W Nottage. Members of your House," Mr Whitfield told the Speaker, "are being accused by some villain out there of having criminal purposes. The Government, which is in charge of instituting the laws should grab a-hold of him (Nottage) and deal with him."

Mr Whitfield pointed out that there is a warrant of arrest out for the Torch's editor Lionel Dorsett for criminal libel.

"I am wondering when they will get around to arresting Kendal W Nottage for the

criminal libel which he has committed upon members of this honourable House," said Mr Whitfield.

"Well, I don't know who is Kendal Nottage," said Sir Clifford. "As I said before, if Kendal W Nottage is a Member of this House, then he should be addressed by the constituency which he represents."

Government Leader in the House, Clement Maynard, rose on a point of order to say that it was against the rules of the House to refer to a Member as a criminal and to say that the Member was selling drugs.

"That is wrong on the floor of this House," said Mr Maynard. "The rules are against that. I would suggest that you really ought not to allow that to happen. I am calling upon you to make a ruling on that because that is completely unacceptable."

"There could be a hundred and one Kendal W Nottage out there, I don't know," said Sir Clifford. "But if he addresses the Member as the Member for St Agnes, then I can take action against the remarks that were made."

"I feel as though it is rather clear," continued Mr Maynard, "who (Mr Whitfield) is referring to. Certain charges made by the Member for St Agnes was in the press. And for a Member to come on the floor of

the House without moving a substantive motion and make such charges against another Member...It is clear what everybody in here understands and what everybody outside will understand. That ought not be allowed."

"I would like to get from (Mr Whitfield) if it is the same Kendal Nottage who is the MP for St Agnes," said Sir Clifford.

"The MP for St Agnes is right here," said Mr Whitfield. "Let him get up and tell you what he has to say. I have already told you who I am talking about."

"Are you talking about the Member for St Agnes?" asked Sir Clifford.

"I am talking about Kendal Wellington Nottage," said Mr Whitfield.

Mr Maynard then suggested that Mr Whitfield's statement should either be withdrawn or stricken from the record.

When Sir Clifford threatened to strike Mr Whitfield's remarks from the record, Mr Whitfield said: "How are you going to strike my remarks from the record of the House?"

"Because you are not speaking about Kendal Nottage, a Member of the House," said Sir Clifford.

"You can't strike my remarks from the record," said Mr Whitfield. "I answered you but

I have not given you the answer that you want."

As Mr Whitfield insisted that the Speaker could not strike his remarks from the record, he was joined by Cooper's Town MP who called the Speaker's threat "baloney."

Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling too rose on a point of order to say that if Mr Whitfield does not want to say that he is speaking about the Member for St Agnes (Nottage), then that is the end of the matter. Sir Lynden said Mr Whitfield can carry on and make his point.

"I want Kendal Nottage, wherever he is, to hear what I had to say about him, because he said that if he is pushed, he would do certain things. He would expose it," said Mr Whitfield. "I am calling upon him to expose it. Go to the Commissioner. Go to (Superintendent of CID) Basil Dean. Tell them everything you know. Don't hide anything. You should have done that ages ago."

"I just want that fellow (Nottage) to know that I am not taking any foolishness from anybody anymore in my life. Me and my children and my family will sue him for every nickle they can get."

On a question from Mr Ingraham, Sir Clifford said that everything is on the record.

/9274

CSO: 3298/092

TORCH EDITOR DORSETTE BACKED BY FNM ON LIBEL CHARGE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

TORCH Editor Lionel Dorsette was charged before Chief Magistrate George Van Sertima today with committing criminal libel against Prime Minister Lynden Pindling.

About 20 Free National Movement supporters, including party leader Kendal Isaacs, Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, Secretary-General Garth Wright, Torchbearers past president Tommy Turnquest and Edmund Moxey were present in court this morning to support Mr Dorsett.

The FNM party editor is alleged to have "unlawfully published an international libel defaming the right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling in the printed issue of the publication under the name of The Torch dated November 7.

"The country wants to know: 'Is the chief still a thief?' was the front page headline that appeared in The Torch." The

particulars of the charges went on to explain that this statement means "thereby that Sir Lynden Pindling was guilty of a crime of stealing."

Lawyer Arlington Butler represented Dorsett and Sgt Burkie Wright was the prosecutor.

After the charges were read, Mr Butler objected to the charge itself. He said that before Mr Dorsett could be charged with libel, the police had to establish whether or not Sir Lynden is a thief. If it is true that Sir Lynden is a thief, then Mr Dorsett has not committed criminal libel, said his counsel.

"We cannot be brought to silencing in the country," said Mr Butler. He asked the Chief Magistrate to deal with the matter expeditiously because the only voice of the opposition party has been suppressed.

A preliminary inquiry into the charges was set for 11 am on January 12 and 13. Mr Dorsett was granted \$1,000 bail in his own recognisance.

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CSO: 3298/092

TEST OF PINDLING'S 1987 BUDGET PROPOSAL TO PARLIAMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Dec 86 pp 4, 6-8, 12

[Text]

PUBLIC Debt Reservicing, at \$109 million, has received the highest allocation in the 1987 Budget.

Making his third Budget Communication to the House of Assembly yesterday morning, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, who is also Minister of Finance, boasted that "the Bahamas has continued to out-perform all other countries in its category for many years."

The following is Sir Lynden's communication on the 1987 \$546.5 million Budget.

**COMMUNICATION TO
THE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY ON THE
BUDGET FOR 1987
BY THE RIGHT
HONOURABLE SIR
LYNDEN
PINDLING, PRIME
MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE
MONDAY, DECEMBER
8TH, 1986**

MR SPEAKER:

Each year when the planned activities of the Government for the coming year are communicated to this Honourable House, it is useful to highlight major social, economic and political occurrences on both global and national levels. It is especially useful to draw attention to those external events which directly influence the local economy or those events which affect our trading partners in the region.

In my Communication last

year, I made passing reference to the dismal state of the global economy with particular emphasis on those Third World Countries where any forward progress was constrained or reversed by natural disasters.

This year, Sir, there were three such examples in our region alone.

Earlier in the year extremely heavy and sustained rainfall in Jamaica caused landslides, washed away roads and bridges, flooded fields and factories and took the lives of men and beasts. So devastating was the disaster that the Government was constrained to offer financial assistance towards the Jamaican relief and rehabilitation effort.

And, just a few weeks ago, the Bahamas again responded to a call to make a small contribution to the on-going relief efforts in St Vincent and the Grenadines and to El Salvador, two other nations that were victims of nature's capriciousness in hurricanes and earthquakes respectively.

The difficulties being experienced by other nations throughout the world and in the Western Hemisphere cannot be ignored by the Bahamas nor treated with national indifference as often suggested by a few unenlightened elements in our midst.

Indeed, many of our neighbours would not permit us to pretend that they do not exist. At the recent annual World Bank and International

Monetary Fund meetings in Washington, our Caribbean neighbours insisted that we become full partners in the programme to articulate the unique concerns of small Island States, the Bahamas was graciously invited to address the meeting on behalf of the entire Caribbean region and in the jointly-prepared statement the world leaders in banking and high finance were urged to "... search for a policy that reflects an understanding of the unique factors and special circumstances facing small island states if they are not to fall between the cracks because of indifference born of small size."

In many respects the plea of small Island States in the Caribbean is similar to the plea of many of our Family Island communities. But unlike the allegations against some international institutions, my Government never has nor ever will, treat any legitimate plea with bureaucratic indifference.

Mr Speaker, our demonstrated and continuing concern for every resident of the Bahamas, every socio-economic group and all economic sectors of this progressive nation was again the cornerstone upon which the 1987 Budget was constructed. The elements of fiscal responsibility, administrative efficiency and an unyielding commitment to the further development of this country are still the operational guidelines for implementing my Government's plans for 1987.

It is towards that end, Sir, and in my role as the principal servant of the interest of the Bahamian masses, that I now have the privilege to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1987.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Mr Speaker, I need not remind this House that a significant rise or fall in the value of the Yen in Japan would impact upon the price in Nassau of automobiles, cameras and business machines, among other things. I need not do so, Sir, because it is now widely appreciated that the Bahamas is an integral part of the world trading community and in order to appreciate where we are, it would be necessary to review some of the major developments in the international economy over the past few years.

Following strong growth in 1984, the pace of world economic activity moderated to 3.3% in 1985, primarily reflecting the lacklustre performance of the United States economy. The prospects for 1986 are even less encouraging as the world economy is still faced with a myriad of problems which have no easy solutions. The current state could best be described as transitory as many countries try to grapple with the problems of fluctuating exchange rates, low oil and commodity prices, strong and growing protectionism and high, though falling, real interest rates. Reflecting the slow pace of global economic activity in the first half of the year, the International Monetary Fund has revised its growth estimate for industrial countries for 1986 downward to 2.8% with only a slight acceleration to 3.0% predicted for 1987. Developing countries are expected to register growth of only 2.7% in 1986.

One positive development in the industrial world in 1986, however, is the continued abatement in inflation which is due largely to low oil and primary commodity prices.

Some countries, notably West Germany and Japan, have also benefitted greatly from the appreciation of their currencies against the dollar.

The partial rebound in oil prices resulting from OPEC's agreement to restrict oil production is felt to be a shortrun measure and, as the Iran-Iraq war drags on, the rebound is not expected to have any serious impact on inflation. The rate of inflation in industrial countries for 1986 is therefore forecast to drop to 2.3% from 4.1% in 1985.

Nevertheless, interest rates on a global scale have remained unprecedentedly high in a period of low inflation. This state of affairs continues to create serious problems for debt-ridden developing countries.

There has been some encouraging developments during the year, however.

Amid declining oil prices, falling inflation and slow growth, the three leading industrial countries in the West, the United States, West Germany and Japan, agreed to a co-ordinated policy-induced reduction in interest rates early in the year in an effort to bolster economic activity. This welcomed development eased the debt burden of developing countries to some extent but it is clear that until some decisive action is taken on lowering the awesome US Federal Budget deficit the underlying upward pressure on interest rates in the United States will continue and this will keep real interest rates high both in the United States and around the world.

The most vexing problem in the global economy today is still unemployment and the slowdown in output which is projected internationally for 1986 will do little to improve the situation in developed or developing countries. For the industrial countries as a group, the rate of unemployment is forecast to rise slightly to 8.3% from 8.2% in 1985 although within the group some countries are expected to fare better than others. In value terms, Mr Speaker, world trade is expected to drop sharply even though the volume of trade is forecast to

increase by 3.5% from 3.1% in 1985. The trade balance in the industrial countries remained strongly in favour of Japan and West Germany notwithstanding the appreciation of their currencies against the United States dollar.

The current account surplus of Japan is expected to widen this year to an estimated \$82.0 billion and West Germany's is expected to expand the order of \$30.0 billion.

Reflecting partly a continued strong demand for imports from Japan, the American current account deficit is forecast to get worse before it gets better.

Due to rising protectionism in and the slow growth of the industrial economies, Mr Speaker, the trade outlook for developing countries remains bleak. Export earnings, which posted a decline of 3.7% in 1985, are expected to fall by 8.3%. The prospects are particularly grim for the oil exporting countries as a result of the drop in oil prices. The recent move by OPEC to ease the decline in oil prices through production quotas has led to a modest recovery in price, but no significant change is expected in the external payments position of this group of countries. Much will depend, however, on the short-term and long-term prospects for ending the Iran-Iraq conflict.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr Speaker, following an unexpectedly low rate of growth of 2.6% in the first half of 1986 the prospects for the United States economy are not particularly encouraging for the second half and for the year as a whole. The original growth forecasts have now been generally downgraded. Indications are that the United States economy will expand by only 2.9% in 1986, up slightly from 2.7% in 1985.

The rate of inflation in the United States fell for most of the year, however and is expected to drop even further to 1.8%, down sharply from 3.5% in 1985. This drop in inflation was heavily influenced by the drop in oil prices.

Unemployment in the United

States remains historically high and is not expected to show any early fundamental change.

The performance of the foreign trade sector has been a major source of disappointment for the United States authorities. Despite the depreciation of the dollar, which began since the World Bank/IMF Meeting in Seoul, South Korea over a year ago, the trade and current accounts deficits continue to grow.

The cumulative trade deficit for the first seven months of 1986 was a discouraging \$102.0 billion, compared with a \$80.6 billion deficit in the corresponding period of 1985. A trade deficit of \$102 billion and a budget deficit of \$200 billion are not the kind of recipe, Mr Speaker, which promotes sustained economic growth and that is why the large and growing US budget deficit remains such a major factor of crucial concern for the world economy as a whole. Although the American Gramm-Rudman-Holdings Budget-reduction Act mandates a budget deficit ceiling of \$144 billion for fiscal year 1987, the deficit is still expected to be greater instead of less than \$144 billion.

In the wake of this, in 1987 a new Congress will meet in January and when it does it is expected to pass new protectionist trade legislation which is likely to do more harm than good to the cause of international free trade. Should this happen, Mr Speaker, this will further damage the prospects for general international economic recovery.

So far this year, however, monetary policy in the United States has remained somewhat accommodative. In an effort to spur economic activity despite the massive trade and budget deficits the United States Federal Reserve Board, with inflation under control, lowered the discount rate on five occasions by the end of September to 5.5%, the lowest level in years. This caused a general decline in American interest rates, particularly short-term rates. The prime rate was reduced to 7.5% by last September, a full 2 percentage point drop for this year alone. This cut in US

interest rates has been a major factor in the partial relief of the debt burden of developing countries.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Mr Speaker, the rate of economic growth throughout the Caribbean region sputtered and slowed down in 1985. During 1986 economic performance in the more developed Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago actually worsened.

A slowdown occurred in virtually all sectors of the regional economies except in agriculture and tourism. Declines in the manufacturing, mining and construction sectors led to a general deterioration of the regional members external positions and foreign exchange shortages. Many countries were, therefore, unable to obtain the necessary imports to rebuild or expand their productive industries.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the fall in international petroleum price levels, together with a softening of domestic demand, adversely affected that country's economic performance. In fact, in 1986 the Trinidad and Tobago dollar was devalued by more than 30% against the US dollar.

A significant reduction of public sector spending occurred in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, (OECS) which includes St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and Grenada, contributing to declines in construction activities in those countries. Similar declines in the construction sector were also evident in Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

The General slowdown in economic activity in the Caribbean Region, Mr Speaker, has led to increased unemployment and additional debt. In some countries, harsh economic adjustment programmes are in place. They were intended to improve the balance of payments and the respective fiscal positions in the countries concerned but the expected beneficial results have generally been very slow in coming.

The much-heralded Caribbe-

an Basin Initiative has not turned out to be the economic panacea it was thought by many to be. As you know, Mr Speaker, CBI was to have been a trade and investment bonanza for the Caribbean Basin Countries but it has produced neither trade nor investment in appreciable amounts. In the three years since the programme has been in effect Caribbean exports to the United States are actually earning less dollars in 1986 than they did in 1983.

A rising tide of protectionism has blocked the entry into the United States of the very goods Caribbean countries can best produce — garments, petroleum products, canned tuna and leather goods, for instance — and sugar quotas have been reduced, not increased.

CBI beneficiary countries complain that the investment side of the programme was never implemented and they are now calling, three years later, for investment to provide infrastructure, for investment in industry and for more favourable treatment for Caribbean products. The general view held is now this, Mr Speaker:

"The Caribbean Basin Initiative was a nice idea. But these three years' experience suggest that limited trade concessions are not a very powerful force for small countries' development in a time in which the world economy is expanding only slowly, commodity prices are falling and protectionism is on the rise. Under these circumstances, the CBI deserves to be remembered as a good-hearted gesture — but not, unfortunately, anything more." It is perhaps noteworthy, Mr Speaker, that in 1985, the tourist-based economies in the Caribbean showed the greatest economic improvements. This was true in countries such as Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos. Tourism is again helping in 1986 when almost every other sector of the economies of the concerned countries is down.

DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Based, Mr Speaker, on the trends in some major economic

indicators, the performance of the Bahamian economy for the first half of 1986 has been encouraging. Our external reserves climbed to a high of \$273.4 million in April, an increase of \$29.2 million over the peak period in 1985. Reflecting in part the usual seasonal demand for foreign exchange in the second half of the year, the external reserves fell moderately to a level of \$253.4 million in August, but even this is up \$32.8 million from the same period last year.

For the first six months of 1986, the narrow measure of money (M1) rose by \$56.2 million or 24.0%, as against \$31.9 million (13.9%) last year. The broad money supply (M2) climbed by \$62.6 million (8.9%), up from \$44.8 million (6.7%) a year earlier. This growth in money resulted solely from a sharp increase in net foreign exchange inflows of \$72.7 million, as domestic credit fell. The increase in our international reserves was due in large measure to a net foreign currency purchase by the Central Bank of \$66.6 million from commercial banks, and the public sector. Total domestic credit declined by \$2.7 million (0.4%), compared with \$37.7 million (5.3%) a year ago. Claims on the private sector advanced by \$15.2 million (2.5%), as contrasted with a decline of \$5.1 million (0.9%) in the same period last year. Commercial banks net claims on Government were reduced by \$17.9 million (13.2%), compared with \$32.6 million (20.4%) a year earlier.

As a result of this, Mr Speaker, the Central Bank adopted a more accommodative monetary policy stance in 1986. Against a backdrop of high liquidity, sluggish credit growth, healthy international reserves and declining interest rates abroad, and, in an attempt to further stimulate local economic activity, the Bank lowered its discount rate by one percentage point to 7.5% on April 21 last. The commercial banks followed the lead of the Central Bank and cut their prime lending rate to 9.0% from 10%. This then led to a general lowering of interest

rates which augurs well for domestic investment.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Mr Speaker, the latest available estimates of expenditure on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 1985 indicate that output stood at just over two billion Bahamian dollars. This represents an absolute increase of 11% over 1984 without any adjustment for inflation. Most of that expenditure was on consumer goods and services; nevertheless, expenditure on investment, both public and private, remains steady. In 1985, an estimated 375 million Bahamian dollars, or 20% of our total expenditure, was spent on construction and the acquisition of major capital goods such as machinery and equipment.

As mentioned earlier, most of the expenditure was on consumer goods and services. Between the Government and private households, some 1.7 billion dollars was spent on consumer goods and services in 1985, up from an estimated 1.5 billion dollars in 1984. When divided by population figures, Mr Speaker, this gives an estimated average consumption expenditure per head of \$7,209 for 1985.

The high per capita expenditure can be attributed to the vibrancy of the Bahamian economy in general and, in particular, to the strength of the tourism sector. In 1985 tourism alone contributed an estimated \$860 million to the economy and in 1986 is expected to contribute over one billion dollars.

Mr Speaker, even after deductions are made for leakages out of the economy, the Bahamas still enjoys a per capita expenditure, which is higher than practically all of the other Latin American and Caribbean countries and many of the other countries of the free world. In fact, the latest World Bank Atlas gives only 39 countries out of a list of 184 with per capita GNP of over US\$5,500.

EXTERNAL TRADE

Mr Speaker, the latest available statistics on our external

trade show that during the year 1985, the total value of commodities imported into the Bahamas (excluding crude petroleum and residual fuel oils) totalled B\$981.3 million. This represents an increase of some 15%, when compared with B\$853 million for imports during the corresponding period of 1984, 20.3% of the total import bill was for machinery and transport equipment, which represented the largest single category for 1985 and grew by 26.1% from the previous year's total of \$158 million.

Automobile imports, and the imports of food and other manufactured goods, are in fact an important economic indicator of a country's prosperity. The rise in expenditure from B\$45 million in 1984 to B\$52 million in 1985 represented an increase of 13.5%.

Food imports, once again the second largest component of the import bill at 15.7%, amounted to \$154.2 million, up from \$149 million in 1984.

Imports of miscellaneous manufactured articles, which include items such as furniture, clothing, footwear, toys and jewellery, grew by B\$15 million over 1984. At a level of \$150.4 million, this category represents some 15.3% of the total 1985 import bill. All of these increases, Sir, are indicative of the general rise in prosperity in the Bahamas.

The United States, United Kingdom and Canada continue to be the major sources of imported goods in the Bahamas. As well as the principal export markets for Bahamian goods. Imports from the United States totalled \$699 million or 71.3% of total imports in 1985 compared with \$647 million or 76% in 1984.

Visible exports to the United States, excluding mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, totalled \$97 million or 31% of non-oil export earnings in 1985, compared with a total of \$88 million the previous year. Of the total exports of \$317.2 million of non-oil commodities, Mr Speaker, \$285.2 million consisted of domestic exports and \$32 million were re-exports.

Trade with our CARICOM neighbours continues to be

relatively small but it is growing at a speedy rate. The value of imports from the Community increased from \$6 million in 1984 to \$21 million in 1985 but exports fell from \$17.4 million in 1984 to \$10 million in 1985.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Another important economic indicator of prosperity, Mr Speaker, is the level of construction. The latest available statistics on construction indicate an overall increase in construction activity for all the Bahamas during 1985. The number of permits issued during that year rose 13.4% to 4,057 from 3,579 in 1984. Their value increased 17.1% from \$216.9 million to \$254.1 million.

The value of building permits issued from New Providence during the first six months of 1986 rose to \$72.4 million to \$78.1 million for the same period in 1985. There was a 7.9% increase in value. Residential construction rose in value by 3.6% from \$58.3 million to \$60.4 million. Commercial and industrial construction accounted for 121 of the total number of permits approved in 1986 for the six month period, representing a 5.3% increase over the 115 for the same period of 1985. The increase in value for this sector was 32.0%. Construction starts for New Providence increased by 31.2%, from 818 to 1,073 in number and by 61.8% in value from \$54.7 million to \$88.6 million. Completions also rose by 28.0%.

In New Providence, Mr Speaker, 1986 launched a new construction boom which gathered momentum throughout the year. This is expected to come into full bloom in 1987 with massive new construction taking place on New Providence, on Paradise Island and at Nassau Harbour.

In Grand Bahama a construction boom is also evident. The number of permits issued during the year 1985 increased 8.5% from 505 to 548. For the first six months of 1986 the number of approvals increased 10.8% to 288 from 260 for the same period of 1985 and their value increased 28.6%, from \$14.6 million to \$18.8 million.

The number of starts for Grand Bahama fell during the period by 7.6%, from 144 valued at \$12.7 million to 133 valued at \$10.4 million. Due to the size of some projects, completions showed a marginal decrease of 1.5%, from 138 to 136 in number and a 12.3% decrease in value, from \$8.1 million to \$7.1 million.

Building permits issued for construction in the Family Islands for the year 1985 decreased by 28.3% in number from 449 to 350 but increased 48.0% in value to \$35.0 million from \$23.7 million. This upward trend continued in 1986 and will accelerate further in 1987 as major public and private construction projects come on stream in Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera and Exuma and smaller projects get underway in other islands.

RETAIL PRICE MOVEMENT

Mr Speaker, as of June, 1986 the rate of inflation in the Bahamas was pegged at 5.3%. This represents a marginal decrease of 2% over the corresponding period ending June, 1985.

A review of the price movements in the various components of the New Providence Retail Price Index shows that for the year ending June, 1986 the food index increased by 8.25%. The items largely responsible for this increase were fruits and non-alcoholic beverages. The effect of the increases in these items was moderated by decreases in sugar and sweets, and oils and fats. In the other components, increases were recorded as follows:

Transport — 3.5%
Health and Personal Care — 3.12%
Clothing and Footwear — 3.06%
Recreation and Reading — 2.44% and
Other Goods and Services — 2.13%

Reductions in prices were recorded in two important areas, however. Between November, 1985 and November, 1986 the cost of gasoline fell, on average, by some 25.4% and in the same period the cost of electricity decreased, on average, by some 4%.

As you know, Mr Speaker,

the Bahamas depends almost totally on imports from industrialized countries, especially the United States, to satisfy its consumption needs. There is no doubt, therefore, that the success of the United States in containing its inflation, which dropped from 3.5% at the end of 1985 to a mere 1.6% in May, 1986 influenced the downward movement of prices in the Bahamas. In fact, in the year ending December 1985 the inflation rate in the Bahamas was lower than the rates recorded for Jamaica, which was 25.7%, Trinidad and Tobago, which was 7.6% and the United Kingdom which was 6.1%. In the Western Hemispheres, the Bahamas was third behind the United States and Canada which had an inflation rate of 4%.

PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Mr Speaker, the performance of the public sector this year has confirmed that the Bahamas is upon another threshold of economic expansion similar to that experienced in the early seventies prior to the OPEC shock-induced energy price increases. It should have become clearly evident to even our most severe critics that the 1986 performances of the public and quasi-public sectors were among the most progressive over the past decade and my Government's programmes for the 1987 fiscal year are designed to sustain those performances and to ensure that the benefits deriving there from would reach all levels of the Bahamian society.

BUDGET PERFORMANCE — 1986

Mr Speaker, it is projected that total revenue collected at the end of 1986 would be in the region of \$439 million or \$38 million more than actual receipts in 1985. That total, although an impressive increase over the 1985 amount is approximately 8% less than my original revenue target for 1986. It should be recalled, Mr Speaker, that the 1986 Budget contained only a few moderate revenue measures and that emphasis had instead been placed on improving the efficiency of the collection system. To that end a

Revenue Task Force was established and the efforts of that body would appear to have had a significant measure of success.

Increases were recorded over almost all of the venue items — customs duties, stamp taxes, tourism taxes and real property taxes. I should like to congratulate the public officers engaged in all revenue departments for their performances in 1986 and, at the same time, urge them to continue their efforts.

On the matter of recurrent expenditure, Mr Speaker, it is projected that by the end of the year total expenditure would be in the region of \$434 million which is \$24 million or 5% less than the expenditure estimates for 1986. It is not often that public recurrent actual expenditures are less than the estimates. In this case, Mr Speaker, the reduction in actual public debt serving in 1986 is mostly responsible. As I forecasted last year, this occurred because the Hotel Corporation Loan was renegotiated so that payments would stretch over a longer period than was envisioned in the original loan agreement.

Given the 1986 performances on revenue and expenditure, Mr Speaker, I expect that at year's end a modest surplus of about \$5 million would be realized on the recurrent account.

Mr Speaker, our planned expenditures on the 1986 Capital Development Budget did not fully materialize. By year's end

only some \$53 million or 76% of the \$70 million budgeted would have been spent or committed. The capital projects which were initiated in 1986, however, are expected to continue into 1987.

Honourable Members would be interested to know that when it was ascertained that the entire \$70 million allocation would not be required or spent, I decided not to raise by way of registered stock issue the entire capital funds approved by this House in 1986. Instead, only two stock issues, totalling \$45 million, were raised in 1986 and any expenditure on capital account in excess of that will be financed from the surplus realised on recurrent account.

TOURISM

Mr Speaker, more than any country in the region, the Bahamas has enjoyed great success in developing tourism into a year-round industry. Our success in year-round tourism, however, has not been lost on the destinations with whom we compete for visitors. Neither have the methods which we have used to achieve that status been lost on those at the helm of competing tourism industries.

The Bahamas has led the field for decades, a fact which has encouraged ever fiercer competition for the consumer each year. We must not rest on our laurels lest we become complacent. We cannot operate from the assumption that we have done well, and will con-

tinue to do well, largely because of our blessed proximity to the world's largest tourism market. While that advantage cannot possibly be dismissed as insignificant, it must be emphasized that it has been good planning and human ingenuity which has thrust the Bahamas into the forefront of tourism in this region and it is these factors which will continue to give us the leading edge.

For this year, the Ministry of Tourism's advertising agency has proposed a multi-million dollar campaign to tackle the fierce competition in the marketplace and to staunch any decline in market share. A two-pronged strategy is proposed. First, concentrate resources on the fifteen markets with the greatest productive potential for the Bahamas. By concentrating on these key markets which produce 65% of our total stopovers, our campaign would achieve the effective reach and frequency levels needed to dominate the competition. The second prong of the campaign strategy will be the launch of a national magazine campaign across North America, designed to develop and maintain demand for travel to the Bahamas from those markets from which we derive the remaining 35% of our business.

Here at home, the Ministry of Tourism proposes to address those areas which have been having a negative effect on visitor satisfaction. The training

of service personnel will receive special attention. Public behaviour, product improvement and environmental maintenance will also be targeted as priority areas of concern. While the country still enjoys a high 40% repeat visitation rate, there have been disturbing indications of dissatisfaction on the part of visitors to the Bahamas.

Mr Speaker, the pattern of recreational travel is changing. There has been a clear tendency towards cruise ship vacations in recent years so the Ministry of Tourism has adjusted its efforts and resources in favour of our cruise visitors. Efforts are also being made to direct more cruise travel to our Family Islands, in keeping with the Government's policy of encouraging more tourism-related development throughout the entire archipelago.

We are now at a juncture at which it is necessary for the Bahamas to reassert itself in the marketplace as the leading and most attractive of the

destinations with which we compete. With the planned improvements to and modernisation of Nassau International Airport and Nassau Harbour, a redevelopment of the Western Esplanade, and improvements to docks and airports in key Family Islands, the Bahamian people can confidently anticipate an age of new growth and development in the tourist industry and the more than three million arrivals spending upwards of one billion dollars projected to the end of 1986 will continue to be surpassed in 1987 and the years ahead.

Foreign Affairs

Mr Speaker, when the Bahamas gained its Independence on July 10th, 1973 its diplomatic requirements were quite modest and were met at the time by accrediting small missions to a few foreign capitals and dispatching small delegations to an occasional international conference.

Thirteen years after Independence, my Government's tasks relative to Foreign Affairs have multiplied in number and broadened in scope as the international outlook of the Bahamas has changed from one of partial involvement to one of deep involvement in complex political, economic, diplomatic and cultural relations with an increasingly larger segment of the international community.

Over the years my Government has demonstrated to the world that political and economic stability form the basis of a strong and vibrant foreign policy. We have further demonstrated that a strong and pragmatic foreign policy must go hand-in-hand with a strong and vibrant domestic policy. I am pleased to report that thirteen years after independence, the Bahamas has been transformed from a mere observer to a dynamic actor in regional and international affairs.

In 1987, Mr Speaker, my Government will be called upon to observe, report, interpret and advise concerning all developments around the world which may have a bearing on Bahamian foreign and domestic policy. In this connection we may be asked to render all possible assistance to our cousins in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Mr Speaker, the officers comprising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have grown into a professional cadre of highly competent men and women of widely diversified and specialised skills. To deal adequately with the many tasks they face in providing effective representation abroad, my Government will expand its recruitment effort in early 1987 and seek to attract Bahamians skilled not only in the traditional diplomatic and consular areas but also in such fields as international economics and finance and foreign trade and commerce. It is my Government's intention that in the light of our thrust in the area of investment promotion, the latter will be responsible for representing overseas the investment and trade policies of the Bahamas.

Housing

Mr Speaker, through the years my Government has expended significant efforts to meet the need for housing for all Bahamians. Elizabeth Estates East could be regarded as our most ambitious housing programme to date in providing affordable houses for Bahamians in the lower and middle income brackets. It is worthy of note that the finance for this was largely provided by the National Insurance Board through the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation. Through the

additional facilities of two conventional lending centres, Finco and First Home Banking Centre, Bahamians have had a further opportunity to benefit from long-term mortgages at the lowest available interest rates.

The development of Nassau Village is well underway. Eighty homes are now being constructed there by local contractors using 4, 3 and 2 bedroom models. IN addition, plans are advanced to develop approximately 92 acres of land in the Carmichael Road Area. This housing development will be known as Flamingo Gardens. Some 445 housing units will be built there.

Our efforts to provide and upgrade existing housing stock will continue in the depressed areas of New Providence. At the same time our housing development activities are continuing in Freeport. Grand Bahama on 300 lots in East Coral Estates where a number of proud home owners recently received their keys. Unprecedented efforts are being made to take our housing programmes to other Family Islands, Sir.

The Bahamas Mortgage Corporation

The Bahamas Mortgage Corporation is now well established in the residential mortgage market for both private and public housing developments. The Corporation's Loan commitments for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1986 totalled \$15.8 million and at that date its cumulative loan total for just over 2-1/4 years of operation was \$41.4 million. Loans to family island residents for the 1985/1986 fiscal year totalled \$1.6 million compared to \$0.8 million the previous fiscal period.

The Corporation plays a pivotal role in the accelerated rate of production in the Government's Ownership Housing Programme by providing the development financing under lease Agreements with the Minister responsible for Housing. Disbursements in this regard are at concessionary rates of interest, a significant measure in containing unit costs. The amounts so disbursed are ultimately converted to long-term mortgages for purchasers. Approximately 58% or \$9.1 million of the total commitment for the last fiscal year was for the purchase of Government-initiated units in New Providence and Freeport.

The Corporation's phenomenal growth in lending is expected to continue into 1987, Mr Speaker, as the Ownership Housing Programme maintains its current momentum. Substantial participation by conventional lenders is anticipated but the Corporation is expected to remain the dominant lender in this segment of the mortgage market. While its internally generated funds will meet a relatively small percentage of the resources required, I am satisfied that the present authorised level of Government guaranteed borrowings by the Corporation will be adequate for the projected expansion in its mortgage portfolio.

The Social Services

Mr Speaker, the Social Welfare budget for 1987 reflects my Government's continued commitment to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups. The budget also reflects the Government's continued support for charities and encouragement of the work of voluntary private welfare agencies which assist in meet-

ing the needs of the poor and other dysfunctional individuals in the community. New grants to charitable organisations have been provided for Hopedale Centre and the Training Centre for the Disabled and increases in existing grants have been provided for the Grand Bahama Children's Home; the Children's Emergency Hostel and The Salvation Army.

The provision of public assistance is now firmly established and additional funding is being provided for 1987. The programme has been extended to the Family Islands through local advisory committees. In order to provide support staff for these committees and increase the scope of welfare services in the islands, additional welfare staff will be recruited for several Family Islands.

Health

Mr Speaker, in 1986 the Eighth Commonwealth Ministers' Conference, from which much has been gained in the pooling of knowledge and experience, was the highlight for the Ministry of Health. We are even more aware now of the high standard of health care offered to our people as compared with so many other regions. On the other hand, we have no room for overconfidence as there is still much more to be done. Further and sustained emphasis will be given to Primary Health Care, Human Resource Development, Environmental Health, Mental Health Services, including Drug Abuse and greater emphasis on Disaster Preparedness.

Our Community Health Services have increased their efforts to improve the health of our people through the Expanded Programme of Immunization and other programmes.

The Blue Hill Road and Coconut Grove Clinic extensions, which are nearing completion, would allow for improved service delivery. New clinics in the Fleming Street and the Carmichael Road Area will be built in 1987 and plans for the rehabilitation of existing clinics and the construction of new clinics to serve the needs of our Family Islands are at an advanced stage.

The Primary Health Care Services in the Princess Market Hospital and Rand Memorial Hospital will continue to be improved through the upgrading of Ambulatory Care Services and the further development of the General Practice and Family Medicine Programmes.

For the Princess Margaret Hospital, we see in the short-term the renovation and alteration of the Burns Unit and extension of the Intensive Care Unit so as to improve the quantity and quality of care offered in these two critical care areas. Improvements will also be directed to expansion of our Maintenance, Ambulance and Business Departments. Emphasis will continue to be placed on upgrading the Diagnostic, Operating Theatres, Emergency, and Maternal and Child Health Services. To effect improvements in Health Information Systems, steps are being taken to review the application of computerization in the health services, including the area of Supplies Management.

The Rand Memorial Hospital will continue its expansion programme to meet the needs of residents of Grand Bahama and the islands of the Northern re-

gion. Administratively, the Rand Memorial Hospital will provide support for the Community Health Services for all of Grand Bahama.

The major problem presently at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, Mr Speaker, is the adjustment to the rapid change in the type of administrations vis-a-vis drug abuse. The staff have done an admirable job in coping with the demands placed upon them. The recently completed renovation of a new admissions Unit, along with Lignum Vitae House, our specialised drug treatment centre, will play a vital role in the Government's Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Programme. Funds from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) Grant became available just recently and would provide the resources to intensify our activities in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse in our Commonwealth.

The New Nursing School is

targeted for completion very shortly. This facility is to be used not only for basic nursing education but also for in-service programmes and post-basic education for nurses and staff in other disciplines.

EDUCATION

Mr Speaker, My government intends to continue its record of resource allocation for the education and training of our people. In 1987 I have been able to sustain a high and increasing allocation for the ministry of Education and for the College of The Bahamas, thus emphasizing the value my Government places on Education as the key to national development.

I propose to maintain expenditure levels in important recurrent items. The allocation for tuition materials will permit the public educational system to be provided with a series of comprehensive text books and Teachers Guides in mathematics, and of improved textual support for the teaching of Grammar during the formative years of the early primary stage of education. The recurrent estimates will permit provision, generally, for core subjects at the Secondary level, and particularly for the Natural technical and vocational subjects. I am pleased to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance given by parent-teachers associations, corporate citizens and the scholars themselves in supplying instructional material and aids for schools. It is my hope that this

very positive and very helpful indication of community support for the schools will continue.

Last year, Mr Speaker, I indicated that in view of the imperatives to continue and where possible complete the centralising of Secondary Schools in the Family Islands and the inescapable necessity to replace semi-permanent secondary school buildings, particularly in New Providence, there was a possibility of restructuring at the secondary level. My Government has now decided, as a matter of policy, that secondary education should be provided in single stage units. I have therefore provided \$2 million for the construction of permanent additional classrooms at C.H. Reeves, C.I. Gibson, D.W. Davis, H.O. Nash and A.F. Adderley High Schools in New Providence.

You will see, Sir, that significant provision is made in the Capital Estimates for secondary school development in the Family Islands. In 1986 a start was made in the conversion of Simms Primary School in Northern Long Island into a Secondary School. It is proposed to continue this development in 1987 with the provision of a technical workshop and facilities for Science and Home Economics. A new Secondary School will be started at Lower Bogue in North Eleuthera in 1987 and a major addition will be made to the school at Harbour Island. The Junior and Senior High School units at

Kemp's Bay, Andros will be combined into a single unit on the present Senior High School site. In Exuma the extension of the L.N. Coakley High School will be completed, thus permitting the centralising of all secondary education on Mainland Exuma. Secondary Education facilities will improve in Grand Bahama in 1987 with the completion of the Eight Mile Rock High School extension and the renovation of Metal building and classroom extensions at West End. Classroom extensions are planned for Cooper's Town, Abaco, and at Old Bight and Arthur's Town High Schools in Cat Island where Science blocks will also be built.

At the Primary School Level, Mr Speaker, the new school at Seven Hills will be occupied in January 1987 relieving some of the pressure on nearby schools. Further relief will be provided by classroom extensions of Woodcock and Sandilands Primary Schools in New Providence and work is about to start on a new Primary School adjacent to W.P. Parket Primary School in Freeport, Grand Bahama at a cost of approximately \$2.0 million.

Mr Speaker, in the Capital Development estimates I have also made provision for an extension to the Public Records Office on Mackey Street to facilitate the consolidation and expansion of the Department of Archives, and for additional classrooms and accommodation at the College of The Bahamas.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, my Government is committed to the ongoing and orderly development of sports. It therefore proposes to reinforce and fortify all sporting programmes promoted by the Ministry of Labour, Youth, Sports and Community Affairs and the governing sports associations that have positive

influence upon the maturity and growth of Bahamian athletes. One of the priorities for 1987 will be the procurement and continued maintenance of existing infrastructure vital to the systematic development and continued improvements of sports throughout the Commonwealth.

Promoting The Bahamas as a Sports Power is still an aim of the Government. To achieve this, emphasis will be devoted to conducting seminars, workshops, and coaching clinics in New Providence and the Family Islands so that Sports administrators and qualified persons can gain vital management tools.

Mr Speaker, to parallel our efforts in the development of Sports a new programme of Cultural Development is emerging. This programme will include.

- (1) The further development of the National Dance School;
- (2) The Development of a National School of Art which will include Junkanoo Development; and
- (3) Cultural Outreach Programmes which will sponsor:
 - (A) Theatre-In-The-Park;
 - (B) a National Youth Choir;
 - (C) A National Children's Choir;
 - (D) A National Arts Festival; and
 - (E) A Comprehensive Art and Crafts Programme.

The establishment of a National Dance Company will facilitate the building up of a repertoire of dances and dance forms indigenous to the Bahamas for use as a showcase of Bahamian culture both at home and abroad. The establishment of a National School of Art will promote and encourage the work of all art forms and assist

in their development and display in The Bahamas and abroad. Part and parcel with this will be the development of a Festival of Junkanoo throughout the family Islands.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Economic Affairs as in the past will continue to marshal its efforts and play an integral role in the economic and industrial development of The Bahamas. This is essential if we are to enhance further investment and economic growth in the economy.

Investment is particularly important because of its job creation potential. Cognizant of this, my Government will continue to identify and attract to this country those investment projects with the greatest potential for creating and generating new job opportunities and the transfer of new technologies.

The Ministries of Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Tourism are combining their investment promotion in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.

The improvement and development of the Soldier Road Industrial Park will be continued in 1987. Some 17,000 square feet of new factory space completed in 1985 at a cost of \$475,000 is already occupied and new contracts have recently been issued for an additional 40,000 square feet of factory space at a cost of \$800,000.

AGRICULTURE

Mr Speaker, the Department of Agriculture remains committed to having a dynamic Agricultural sector providing food for our immediate needs, generating meaningful employment opportunities for our people and earning its share of foreign exchange through exports.

My Government has always actively promoted the involvement of the local private sector and foreign interests where appropriate in agricultural development. We have had some encouraging results. For example, our Bahamian poultry producers have modernised and expanded their operations, thus raising the levels of skills required and providing op-

portunities for Bahamians who may have been inclined to look elsewhere for jobs.

Large fruit orchards which were developed in the late 1970's by foreign investors to take advantage of export opportunities are now in full production and are evidenced by ever rising exports of fresh fruits to the United States and France. Last year fruit exports consisting mainly of Persian Limes, grapefruits and papayas exceed 5,500 tons compared to less than 300 tons in 1983.

As the development of local agriculture proceeds, the Government recognises that it has a special responsibility to be ever vigilant against the introduction of pests and diseases which could have serious economic consequences. The Department of Agriculture is presently collaborating with the United States Animal and Plant Health Service in conducting a comprehensive survey of the country for the Med-Fly. Measures to control the introduction of the deadly citrus canker also remain in effect.

My Government, always mindful of the importance of proper marketing infrastructure for small farmers, will be moving shortly to construct and fully equip additional Packing Houses in the Family Islands. When these additional facilities are in place we will have completed the final phase of the programme for Family Island marketing infrastructure which commenced in 1976 in Mount Thompson, Exuma.

To give further impetus and sustain this initiative, the Research and Demonstration facilities at the Gladstone Road Agricultural Complex in New Providence and the Bahamas Agricultural and Research Centre in Andros will be refurbished in 1987. My Government is in search of a team of mixed farming experts to increase technical assistance, farm management know-how and practical training at The Bahamas Agricultural and Research Centre. It is envisaged that this Centre, with its agricultural programmes and its research facilities, will eventually be incorporated into the College of The Bahamas as the School of Agriculture.

In its efforts to expand the fishing base from the traditional shallow water scalefish, conch and crawfish, the Government in late 1985 initiated three pilot fishing studies for deepwater snappers, groupers, and stone crabs.

Results from the studies relating to deepwater snappers and groupers have been extremely encouraging. Catches of deepwater snappers and groupers averaged approximately 1,200 lbs/day for 45' vessel and 1,550 lbs/day for a 64' vessel. Results of the stone crab study will be available in June, 1987.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, foremost among the many plans for the Royal Bahamas Police Force is the Force's re-organization in 1987. In this regard, three Officers have been appointed as advisors to the Minister of National Security and are expected to pay particular attention to the local and overseas training of police officers, criminal investigation procedures and the general administration of the Police Force.

During 1987, my Government will provide additional police stations and improve the living and recreational facilities for men and women of the Force. The transportation and personnel requirements of the Force throughout The Bahamas will be reassessed and met as effectively as is possible. Additionally, recruitment will continue during the year for persons with the abilities and potential for police work to bring the Force up to the required strength.

As for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Mr Speaker, its principal tasks will continue to be:-

- (A) To deny the use of Bahamian waters for the transshipment of drugs and to apprehend any drug traffickers;
- (B) To prevent illegal immigrants from coming ashore on Bahamian territory; and
- (c) to prevent poaching of our fishery resources.

The recent delivery of the three new 108-foot Protector Class Patrol Craft as provided for in the 1986 Budget has greatly increased the effectiveness of the Force, and

has made it possible to plan for the refits of HMBS Marlin and HMBS Inagua during 1987. Although these craft have sound hulls, their engines, generators, galleys, switchboard, electrical wiring and navigation and radio equipment require complete overhaul. At the same time, the accommodation spaces will be refurbished so as to improve living standards on board.

To give the Defence Force the capability of carrying out its own planned maintenance and repairs of Craft within minimum dependence on outside contractors, my Government proposes to install a ship lift at the Coral Harbour Base in 1987.

In order to man and maintain the Patrol Craft and to carry out wider security duties and operations ashore, the effective strength of the Force will be increased. Officers will continue to be trained at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth while the Marine recruits will undergo basic training at HMBS Coral Harbour. Officers and marines will continue to be sent on specialist courses as and when offered in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

The physical security at the Coral Harbour Base will be upgraded and a separate Defence Force Air Wing Compound will be developed at the Nassau International Airport.

Mr Speaker, my Government's grave concern for ensuring the peace and stability of this nation is no secret. In the past and indeed, in this 1986 Budget, that concern was and is reflected in the amount of national resources that have been shifted to our Police and Defence Force for the acquisition of modern materials and equipment and for improvements to the physical workplace.

The provision of new and expensive equipment without at the same time, making appropriate provisions for the personnel who operate the equipment is likely to compromise the overall objective of the Security exercise. It is for this reason, Mr Speaker, and in recognition of the enlarged re-

sponsibilities placed on our security forces that I purpose to increase the Hazard or risk allowances to \$100 per month for all eligible officers in the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

The Hazards of Police and Defence Force work is not only limited to the officers who perform the tasks but extend to their families and loved ones. Ever cognizant of the total needs of the brave men and women of these two front-line law enforcement agencies, I have also made provision for my Government to assume the full cost of comprehensive life and medical insurance coverage for all members of the Police and Defence Forces.

Mr Speaker, given the increased role that these officers have to play in securing our borders and reducing the level of crime on all fronts, we believe that this small gesture on our part is a mere token of our appreciation for their efforts and we do not anticipate any objections from other segments of the public service or from the public at large. •

Mr Speaker, the groundwork has now been laid for the purchase and installation of modern electronic data processing equipment for the Immigration Department which will speed up the checking of the restricted and Stop Lists to enable faster processing of visitors and also facilitate the processing of Work Permits in a more timely manner. There will be no let up in 1987 of the Government's efforts to rid The Bahamas of illegal immigrants.

CIVIL AVIATION

Mr Speaker, installed at a cost of nearly \$5 million, the aircraft surveillance Radar will be fully commissioned in early 1987. The equipment is state-of-the-art. The Bahamian Controllers and Technicians who will use and maintain the system have been trained at a cost of \$139,850.00.

Further repairs to the roof of the passenger building at Nassau International Airport will be undertaken in 1987, at an estimated cost of \$500,000.00.

Repaving of the secondary runway 09-27 and the main runway at Nassau International

Airport will be carried out in 1987. In addition, the main runway lights and cables will be replaced and lighting provided for general aviation, along with renovation of electrical distribution air units in the passenger building.

In the Capital Development Estimates I have made financial provision for Phase Two of the Airport re-development programme to get underway in 1987. This phase of the airport re-development programme will include the construction of a new customs/immigration pre-clearance terminal and upper boarding fingers. The new facility will be fitted with modern air bridges and additional parking gates. A new police station and a new large V.I.P. Lounge will also be constructed. A fire rescue building will be constructed a more appropriate location at the centre of the airfield. The former immigration concourse will be converted to an arrivals' hall, with appropriate amenities such as snack and cocktail facilities, rent-a-car booths and shops.

The improvements at Nassau International Airport are being matched by those at Nassau Flight Services. To date, the company has all the equipment necessary to handle any type of aircraft operating to Nassau International Airport but additional equipment is to be acquired soon and the operation of a new general aviation ramp is expected to be undertaken without difficulty.

WORKS AND UTILITIES

Mr Speaker, in 1987 my Government will continue to enhance the economic development of The Bahamas through its infrastructural development programme in New Providence and the Family Islands.

In 1985, the Government commenced a massive road repair and paving programme throughout The Bahamas and this will continue through 1987 and 1988. In New Providence, almost every main road and their arteries in virtually all constituencies have been or are being upgraded. The Family Islands have also been a great beneficiary, even though, in many instances, works have been slowed due to equipment and contractual deficiencies.

New roads are proposed for

implementation in 1987 to alleviate the present traffic congestion in New Providence. This will include road linkages between Carmichael Road and Harrold Road and the extension of Gladstone Road north to West Bay Street in the vicinity of the Cable Beach Hotel.

During 1987, the docks and airports improvement programme and the refurbishment of public buildings will continue throughout the Bahamas. Preparatory works and/or plans have commenced for docks in Exuma, Long Island, Cat Island, Rum Cay, San Salvador, Andros, Eleuthera, Abaco, and Bimini. Improvements to airports at Marsh Harbour, San Andros, Mangrove Cay, North Eleuthera, Governor's Harbour, Spring Point, Matthew Town and Nassau have also been programmed.

In the area of electricity, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, in this its thirtieth year of existence, will continue through 1987 and 1988 the Family Island electrification programme at a cost of \$7.2 million. The projected works are scheduled for South, Central and North Andros, Exuma, San Salvador and Cat Island. Works in New Providence will continue as well.

Due to savings occasioned by the reduction in fuel costs and the use of energy efficient generators, the Corporation, in 1987, is expected to reduce the basic unit of electricity.

The Bahams telecommunications Corporation will continue its capital projects, which commenced in 1986 in New Providence, Andros, Abaco and Eleuthera. Some \$35 million will be expended on these and on new projects in 1987. The Corporation plans to extend its services in Eleuthera and improve its facilities at Deadman's Cay and Simms, Long Island and at Little Exuma.

The successful implementation of the water barging scheme by the Water and Sewerage Corporation and the expansion and rehabilitation of New Providence's wellfields and distribution network have resulted in an increase from 4.9 million gallons of water per day in 1976 to 6.4 million gallons per day in 1986. The Corpora-

tion in 1987 will continue to rehabilitate and extend the New Providence water distribution network. It will also construct several water and sewerage works, including the expansion of the North Andros wellfields. Approximately \$2 million have been earmarked for such works.

The Corporation is finalizing a new five year plan to improve water and sewerage services. Among other things, the plan will result in further wellfields' projects, improvements to the marine fleet, the elimination of the Yellow Elder and Big Pond Vacuum Sewerage System and the expansion of sewerage collection, treatment and disposal.

BAHAMASAIR

As our national airline, Bahamasair provides essential services to our Family of Islands within a well defined network. Internationally, the airline contributes significantly to the development of the routes essential to our tourist trade. The year 1986 is likely to be the most successful in Bahamasair's history, Mr Speaker. For the first 10 months in 1985, the number of International passengers carried by Bahamasair was 428,394 but that number increased for the same period in 1986 to 474,792. On the domestic routes traffic there was a similar increase from 282,723 passengers in 1985 to 324,394 in 1986.

The on-time performance of Bahamasair and the physical appearance of most of its aircraft have improved. Major refurbishment of the interior of the de Havilland 748s has been done and the seating configuration of the Boeing 737s has been adjusted for greater passenger comfort.

Improvement in all departments is expected to continue in 1987 as the hub system is already paying dividends. Prop-jet equipment is now more readily available to provide reliable and frequent connections to all major Family Islands.

THE 1987 BUDGET

Mr Speaker, for almost two decades my government has had the opportunity and the privilege of designing and putting in place, annual plans for the allocation of public resources to meet the seemingly insatiable demand for more and more

public goods and services. As always, my Government had adhered to the principles of judicious fiscal management and more often than not, to just pure common sense, in fashioning its annual budget. The year 1987 will see no departure from that tradition. Accordingly, I should now like to acquaint Honourable Members with the highlights of the 1987 Budget.

The Estimates of Revenue for 1987 that I am laying on the table are expected to yield \$479 million. That total reflects the normal growth rate of our major revenue items, Customs Duties, Tourism taxes, Real Property and Stamp taxes and includes some new measures. The total also represents a 5% increase over the 1986 likely receipts. In either case, the projections are moderate and are attainable. The estimates on the Recurrent Expenditure Account are also in the total amount of \$479 million. This enables me to present to this House a balanced budget on the recurrent account demonstrating once again my Government's commitment to fiscal prudence.

As usual, the emphasis in the expenditure budget has been placed on the delivery of basic services to the general public, the provision of peace, safety and order in our society, the continued enhancement of our major sector and the maintenance and repair of public property.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, the following is a short list of the major appropriations over the various budgetary heads:

The Ministry of Education (including the College of The Bahamas) \$90m or 19%.

The Ministry of Health (including the Rand Hospital, the Department of environmental Health and the Princess Margaret Hospital, a new Head which was established to improve administrative efficiency) — \$67m or 14%.

The Ministry of National Security (including the Police Force, the Defence Force and the Immigration Department, Prison and Boys and Girls Industrial Schools) — \$60m or 12.5%.

Ministry of Tourism — \$30m or 6.25%

Ministry of Works (including the Department of Physical Planning) — \$14.5m or 3%.

The single largest item in the expenditure budget is, of course, the allocation for personnel emoluments which computes to approximately \$225 million across all heads. That figure represents 47% of the total budget.

The Public Debt Service projected for 1986 is in the amount of \$109 million which includes interest and principal repayments on Loans, Government Registered Stock and Treasury Bills. This amount will be financed entirely from recurrent revenue as has been the practice over the years.

REVENUE MEASURES 1986

Mr Speaker, in last year's Budget Communication I indicated that it was not my Government's intention to introduce any new taxes and that the concentration would be placed on improving the collection system. Since we regard this important exercise as an on-going feature of revenue enhancement, and having regard to the level of success in 1986 it is proposed to continue to review the system of collections during 1987.

It was brought out in the Budget Debate of last year and it has been confirmed by our 1986 review that a large number of property transfers involving Bahamian real estate are being conducted by the transfer of company shares. It is believed further, that many of these companies are incorporated for the precise purpose of avoiding the payment of stamp duty applicable on conveyances since currently, company shares are not required to be stamped under the Stamp Act. The ordinary person who buys or sells a piece of property is required to pay the full stamp duty rate whereas another person who forms a company and places title to the property in the company is able to sell without having to pay the stamp duty.

I therefore propose to introduce legislation to amend the Stamp Act so as to make dutiable any transfer of shares in which the beneficial ownership of Bahamian real estate is being conveyed or assigned. It would be difficult at this stage

to assess the direct revenue impact because of this amendment but I am advised that a conservative estimate would place the figure at \$5 million.

Mr Speaker, last year, the tax on motor spirits (gasoline) was moved slightly upwards and the proceeds of the tax were applied to the road-building and repair programme which has been taking place in New Providence and the Family islands all year. The Ministry of Works and Utilities announced earlier in this year its plans for extending the road-building and repair programme into those private subdivisions which were in need of attention. Accordingly, I propose to raise the gasoline tax by three (3) cents per gallon and given the current and projected levels of crude prices at the well-head, the retail price per gallon should not increase appreciably.

Mr Spaker, the level of exemption from customs duties payment by residents returning from abroad has been a source of irritation to some Bahamians for a number of years. I have been keeping this matter under constant review in the light of improved budget performance. As a result, therefore, of favourable budget performances in 1985 and 1986 I am of the opinion that an increase in the exemption level at this time would not cause damage to the economy. Accordingly, I propose to increase the personal exemption from the existing \$25 per person to \$100 per person. At the same time, I propose to raise the level of exemption for returning residents after a year abroad from \$240 to 500 per person.

These new exemption levels would be put in place on January 1, 1987.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT — 1987

Mr Speaker, the Capital Development Budget for 1987 may be regarded as the second phase of the 1986 Budget insofar as many of the Programmes which were initiated this year are expected to continue into 1987.

It should be remembered that the Capital Budget is essentially a summary of the Government's plans for improving public infrastructure which includes the construction of or repairs to roads, bridges, airports,

schools, clinics and office buildings. These projects, by their very nature, usually extend beyond one calendar year and consequently, unavoidable over-lapping occurs from one fiscal year to another.

In any event Mr Speaker, the total Capital Budget for the year 1987 is estimated at \$67.5 million, some \$3.5 million less than 1986's budget.

The Ministry of Education has been allocated some \$12.75 million or 19% of the budget to continue its programmes of constructing, expanding and equipping schools in New Providence and the Family Islands. I have allocated a similar amount of \$12 million to the Ministry of Works and Utilities to continue infrastructural development throughout The Bahamas including the provision of more and better roads to service the growing public and private automobile population.

The Department of Aviation has been allocated just under \$10 million to provide new airstrips, extend or repair existing airstrips and terminal building and continue the re-development plans at Nassau International Airport.

Advances to Government Corporations and the need for further sundry capital works are still a major component of the

Capital Budget and to that end, I have allocated \$16 million to the sundry capital item in the Ministry of Finance. That head also includes the remaining \$1.5 million for further developments in the Grants Town area.

The Ministry of National Security and the Police, Prisons and Defence Force have been allocated a combined total of \$5 million to implement plans for the further strengthening of our national security infrastructure.

Mr Speaker the capital projects are customarily funded from the proceeds of Government Registered Stock and accordingly, the appropriate parliamentary resolution in that regard has been prepared seeking this Honourable House's approval to obtain the necessary funds to implement the 1987 capital projects.

CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker, The Bahamas has continue to out-perform all other countries in its category for many years. The Bahamas is not saddled with unmanageable external debt; it has not suffered through a balance of payments crisis; the normal flow of goods and services to and from the country has not been disrupted by interventionist policies by the Government nor are our people fleeing our shores in search of better economic opportunities

in other countries.

Indeed, Mr Speaker, the opinion of us held by others would sometimes appear to be more favourable than the opinion we hold of ourselves. One of the local publications is forever forecasting doom for our beloved country. By contrast, an international financial publication, Euromoney, recently had this to say about the Bahamas:

"... There are no generals here, no secret police, no political prisoners. The Government submits to a general election held at least every five years, and the courts, modelled on the British system, are open to all citizens seeking redress. Blessed with a near perfect climate which attracts thousands of foreign tourist each week, the country is also one of the most prosperous in the region, and it pursues conservative fiscal and monetary policies that have enabled to foster economic stability."

Mr Speaker, there is little I can add to that opinion of The Bahamas except to say that as long as my Government is at the helm, we will continue on the steady path of growth and development for all The Bahamas.

/9274

CSO: 3298/092

CIVIL SERVICE, TEACHER WAGE DEMANDS BODE LABOR TROUBLES

PSU-Pindling Meeting

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PUBLIC Service Union president Arlington Miller was expected to meet with Prime Minister Lynden Pindling this afternoon to discuss salary increases for the civil service.

Sir Lynden and Mr Miller met Saturday on the matter and are discussing making salary increases retroactive to January 1, 1986, a reliable source said. The last contract expired at the end of 1985.

Neither the 1986 nor the 1987 Budget made provision for salary increases for the civil service.

It is understood that Sir Lynden decided not to increase salaries on the advice of the IMF, which reported that Government service was overstaffed and the payroll too high. Almost half of the \$546.5 million 1987 election year Budget will be used to pay Government salaries.

It was disclosed in the House last week that when Pinedale MP Milo Butler Jr was BEC chairman in 1984, it was recommended that electricity rates ought to be reduced by five cents a unit.

"Maybe the Government would tell us why it did not accept that recommendation in 1984 if it was made," Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham, who made the disclosure, said.

He was criticising Government for charging unjustifiably high electricity and water rates while no provision has been made to give civil servants a pay increase. He said he did not care about any "mumble jumble" from the IMF.

Mr Ingraham said he would take back his remarks if someone wanted to deny them. No Government Minister rose to deny the disclosure.

Sir Lynden's failure to make provision for salary increases - while only this month he moved for legislation for contributory pensions for MPs - has generated bitterness among civil servants.

Mr Miller was not in office when The Tribune telephoned him for comment this afternoon, but it was believed that he had a meeting scheduled with Sir Lynden this afternoon.

Sir Lynden, who is Minister of Finance, was sharply criticised in the House by Government and Opposition members for neglecting to give civil servants an increase for the second straight year.

Former Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna strongly regretted that Sir Lynden had made no provisions to increase public servants' salaries.

Unless it keeps abreast of

civil servants' salaries, Government is going to lose its best workers to the private sector, he warned.

He said the last time Government employees got pay increases was on the eve of an election year. That agreement was for three years.

Mr Ingraham said it was wrong for Government not to increase civil servants salaries in 1986, and then make no provision to do so in 1987.

It cannot be the responsibility of the civil service if Government has padded its payroll with politically appointed persons to such an extent that salary and wage increases are becoming more and more unmanageable, Mr Ingraham said.

If Government continues to refuse to bite the bullet and do what is necessary, and employs more people than necessary, they cannot deny dedicated civil servants salary increases, he said.

Mr Ingraham said there cannot be a structure that pays janitresses more than a person who has 2 GCE O levels and seven BJCs and wants to become an architect.

Government janitresses are the highest paid in the Bahamas, he said.

He wanted to know how Government could ask people

who made \$10,000 in 1986 when the rate of inflation was five percent, or the purchasing power of that sum decreased by \$5,000, not to take a raise for the second straight year.

While this is happening, Government wrongly took out National Insurance contributions between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1986, "and the government has not yet to date given these public servants their money back," Mr Ingraham said.

He demanded that Government pay back "what they shouldn't have taken."

He strongly criticised BEC for continuing to charge unjustifiably high electricity rates, and the Water and Sewerage

Corporation for charging high rates for water when one third of it is wasted (through leakage).

Mr Ingraham said that the cost of living is going up by more than five percent and Government ought to be more sensitive to the needs and living conditions of the people.

He said that the current BEC rates being charged and the proposed new rates are both unjustifiably high.

Mr Ingraham deeply regretted that Government wants to turn BEC into a money earner for the Treasury rather than provide reasonable and affordable electricity rates.

He said he was advised and

had reason to believe that when Mr Butler was chairman of the Board in 1984, it was recommended that the electricity rate ought to be reduced by five cents a unit.

"Maybe the Government would tell us why it did not accept that recommendation if it was made," Mr Ingraham said.

He said that in March Government got a \$600,000 dividend from BEC. He said the money should have been used to build sidewalks or carry the electrical expansion programme.

When the cheque was carried "up there," Mr Ingraham had no doubt there was "joy and happiness at Finance."

Teachers' Proposal

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE Bahamas Union of Teachers today warned its members to "prepare for the eventual" and reserve some of their limited money for the early months of 1987 as their services and support may be called upon to press salary demands.

In a press statement today, the BUT said that its salary proposal submitted in September, 1985, for teachers has been ignored to date.

The BUT also urged Government not to usurp the free collective bargaining process which should prevail within the tripartite system by legislating a "pittance" for teachers and civil servants.

According to the union, its time and energies were spent over the past three years to bring about an improvement in the work environment and classrooms for students and teachers.

"Now we will direct our time and energies to our financial needs also," the union said. "The salary proposal submitted in September, 1985, for our teachers has been ignored to date."

"The Permanent Secretary of

the Ministry of Education, who is ultimately responsible to prepare an input, has failed to do so; we therefore, have received no feedback from the Department of Public personnel on our proposal," the union said.

"The BUT wishes to urge the Government not to usurp the free collective bargaining process which should prevail within the tripartite system and as prescribed by Convention #154 and recommendation #163 of the ILO, by legislating a pittance for teachers and indeed civil servants on the whole," the BUT said.

Almost half of the \$547 million, 1987 budget - \$225 million or 47 percent - will be spent on Government salaries, which includes teachers and other civil servants, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Sir Lynden Pindling told the House of Assembly on Monday, December 8.

"If indeed, Government is serious about their proclamation for education as #1 priority, then they must redress the question of salaries for their number one professionals," the union said.

Noting that a renowned

economist has stated that, "Society pays the most for the services that they value the most," the union said that this definitely, as far as the Government is concerned, does not apply to education in the Bahamas.

"The most valuable resource a nation could possess is its human resources," the union said. "True investments in education would redound to the investors - the people of the Bahamas."

"The dire need for better salaries must be addressed immediately. Teachers, beware! reserve some of your limited money for the early months of 1987," the union warned.

"Your services and support for your benefit and the good of teachers in the future may be called upon," the union said. "Prepare for the eventual."

The union also thanked all of its members for the unflinching support given to the union during 1986.

"We wish to encourage you to continue working with BUT for better working conditions and an increase in salaries for all teachers," the union said.

GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO FIRE STRIKING AIRLINE WORKERS

FL062244 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] In the news at this hour there are some late developments in that situation at Bahamas Air where some workers yesterday walked off the job in support of a fired co-worker.

Our team is just back from the airport. Obie Wilchcombe is in studio live with us now with the latest developments:

Kirk [Smith, ZNS announcer] The latest in connection with the wildcat strike at Bahamas Air is that 20 employees have returned to work while 120 remain off their jobs. A ministry spokesman said the employees still out are from ground services, flight attendants, and air traffic [corrects himself] aircraft maintenance.

The spokesman said while there are delays, the airline is continuing its operation. Management, the employees who returned to work, and those who did not walk off their jobs are manning the various sections of Bahamas Air. The spokesman said letters of termination will be given this afternoon to those who have not yet returned to work.

ZNS news was at the airport this morning when union members emerged from a meeting. After the meeting, the president of the Airport, Airline, and Allied Workers Union, Mr Henry Dean, addressed the group. Among other things, he told them that they must stick together and that they will march on the Ministry of Transport.

Confirming the walkout last night, the chairman of Bahamas Air, the Honorable Philip Bethel, indicated that it was a result of the termination of an employee. Striking employees were given until 8:30 [0130 GMT] last night to return to their jobs or face termination. Mr Bethel gave the ultimatum, noting that the strike was illegal.

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CSO: 3298/092

BRIEFS

NEW BANK GOVERNOR--Nassau, 6 Jan (CANA)--The government has named James H. Smith, a 39-year-old economist, to succeed William Allen as governor of the Central Bank of the Bahamas. Smith, a graduate of the Canadian Universities of Windsor and Alberta, worked as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance until his new appointment. Allen resigned from the Central Bank last month to go into the private sector. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1535 GMT 6 Jan 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/092

BARROW COMMENTS ON U.S. TRADE POLICY, DLP EFFORTS

Market Situation

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 2 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Tony Best]

[Text]

MIAMI — Contrary to what many Americans often claim, Barbados and its Caribbean neighbours pump much more money into the United States than Washington returns to the region in the form of purchases of Caribbean exports and financial and technical assistance.

That assertion has been made by Prime Minister Errol Barrow, who told the DAILY NATION in an interview in Miami that the United States enjoyed a lopsided favourable balance of trade with the Caribbean that might be as large as \$2 billion. At the same time, he said, several Caribbean nations were making huge debt service payments on loans made by United States commercial banks.

Because of those factors, Barrow said, the United States should open up its market to all Caribbean exports as one way of helping the region.

"The adverse balances which exist between the Caribbean countries and the United States on trade are really horrendous," he said. "The balances that we now suffer are astronomical. What I mean is this, we pump more money into

the United States economy than the amounts which they may give the Caribbean countries in the way of aid or even loans through the commercial banks or in any of the other forms."

Barrow who has been severely critical of what he sees as the "mendicant" attitude of some Caribbean politicians whom he accused of walking through the corridors of Washington begging for money, contended that even the debt service payments of Caribbean states to United States commercial banks and other institutions exceeded the total volume of all forms of aid given to the region by the United States government.

"So," he went on, "we really are supportive of the economy of the United States, no matter what they may be telling their people back there. I think the time has come when all the exports of the Caribbean countries should be allowed to enter into the United States without any payment of duty whatsoever. If the United States wants to enter into a relationship with us, then they can enter into this relationship by allowing all of our exports to enter the country free of duty."

Barrow was in Florida to deliver a feature address at the annual Miami Conference on

the Caribbean. His speech which emphasised Caribbean self-reliance and less dependence on the United States was hailed as "forthright" and "timely".

"I think it was the best speech I have heard since I began coming to the Miami Conference four years ago," said one businessman.

"There were many things with which I was in profound agreement," said one Eastern Caribbean government minister. "Mr. Barrow stated his position well and in unequivocal terms."

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 2 Dec 86 p 28

[Article by Tony Best]

[Text]

ALTHOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT in Barbados has come down slightly since the new Democratic Labour Party Government assumed office in May, more time is needed before any major and long-lasting turnaround in the country's economic fortunes will be realised.

These words of caution were sounded by Prime Minister Errol Barrow who said that Government was hoping increased domestic and foreign investment would spur economic growth and increase employment.

Government, Barrow told the DAILY NATION in an interview in Miami where he was attending the annual Conference on the Caribbean, had established the groundwork for the expected expansion in investment through "inducements" and through significant reductions in taxes.

"We are planning now on a long-term basis and it will take a little time for us to see a complete turnaround in the economy which is still subjected to outside influences," was the way he put it. He continued: "We are hoping that by the inducement of further investment, both on the domestic front and from external sources, that we would be able to create a lot more job opportunities."

While asserting Government had not done "anything startling" since taking up duties following the May 28 general election, the Prime Minister said the administration's prompt move to deliver on its economic promises to the electorate was significant and should pay dividends over the long haul.

"What we have done is to implement the promises which we made at the time we were fighting an election campaign," he went on. "Most of these were promises which were based on economic considerations relating to the level of employment and the standard of living of the people. We felt that the people were overtaxed and we have taken measures to reduce taxation."

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CSO, 3298/093

PUBLIC WORKERS UNION REJECTS WAGE OFFER FOR TOP LEVEL

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) has not accepted Government's wage offer for officers at the top of the salary scale.

General Secretary Mr. Joseph Goddard said yesterday that contrary to Press reports, no such decision has yet been taken.

He said that the NUPW had resubmitted its mandate from the general body for a five per cent increase for officers at the top of the scale, 10 per cent for officers in the middle and 15 per cent for officers at the bottom. The increases are to be spread over two years and are retroactive to April 1.

Government is offering a 1.4 per cent increase to officers at the top of the scale in the first year, 4.3 per cent to officers in the middle and nine per cent for those at the bottom with a two per cent increase across the board in the second year.

Mr. Goddard said yesterday that he did not yet have word on a date for the next meeting with the Establishments Division.

In response to the Press reports that a decision had been reached for workers at the top, he said that while some public workers present at the meeting had been pushing this, in the end it was decided that this was not acceptable. He said: "A few people don't care about those at the top; but the public service is so structured that if you interfere with the top scale it affects the bottom and vice versa."

Meanwhile, Mr. Victor Hutchinson, President of the Barbados Union of Teachers said that his organisation was still not ready to make any statement regarding the stage that negotiations had reached. He said he did not know when the next meeting with Government would be.

The other public sector unions, the Barbados Workers Union and the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union have already accepted Government's offer.

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CSO: 3298/093

GOVERNMENT GRANTS IMMIGRANT STATUS TO RICKEY SINGH

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 7 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Tuesday, (CANA) —The Barbados Government has granted immigrant status to Guyana-born journalist Rickey Singh and his family, they said today.

The decision comes three years after a previous Barbados Government of the late Prime Minister Tom Adams had suddenly revoked the work permit of the journalist, then editor of the Barbados-based monthly newspaper *Caribbean Contact*.

Singh and his family were living in Barbados for about five years when his work permit was revoked and he was asked to leave the country.

As Opposition Leader, Barbados' present Prime Minister Errol Barrow had openly criticised the revocation of Singh's work permit, an incident that followed the journalist's strong criticism of the US-led invasion of Grenada in October 1983.

Barbados' current Opposition Leader, Henry Forde, had acted as lawyer for Singh in making representations to the Government, at the request of his then employer, the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).

A journalist of some 25 years' experience, Singh currently writes for various Caribbean and extra-regional media organisations.

In a brief comment today Singh, recently elected as president of the Caribbean Association of Media Workers (Camwork), said he was happy to be in a position to "express my appreciation for the decision of a new Barbados Government to make it possible for me and my family to reside and work in this country, which we regard as part of our Caribbean home."

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CSO: 3298/093

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, TRADE SITUATION

Drop in Reserves

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Barbados' foreign reserves showed their biggest decline for the year when they dropped to \$259.1 million at the end of August this year, according to the latest Central Bank of Barbados bulletin.

The Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics for October showed the reserves as falling some \$21.3 million from the July figure, and \$39.4 million below the reserves for the corresponding period a year ago.

In March, the reserves were at their highest for the year. According to the Central Bank they stood at \$320.4 million.

Barbados' foreign reserves have traditionally been boosted by earnings from the tourism, manufacturing and sugar sectors — the three main earners of foreign currency — and

by borrowings.

Up to June this year, tourist arrivals had surpassed the arrivals for the similar period last year. Some industry officials have anticipated that this would be a better year than 1985.

11% increase

The Central Bank has reported also that although sugar output this year is above that for last year by 11 per cent, earnings from the industry could be less because of poor prices in the major export markets.

The manufacturing sector is also having its problems. With the closure of Intel, the largest of the electronics manufacturing plants, there could be a decline in earnings from this sector.

In the meantime, the

Central Bank statistics have shown that the country's national debt has fallen from the July level of \$1 157.0 million.

At the end of August this year, Barbados' national debt stood at \$1 152.5 million with the short-term domestic debt amounting to \$497.1 million and the long-term domestic debt \$217.9 million.

The foreign component of the debt, made up of borrowings in the United Kingdom, Canada, international institutions, on the Eurodollar market, and through foreign bonds, has amounted to \$437.5 million.

The domestic short-term component includes treasury bills, advances from the Central Bank and commercial bank loans and overdrafts with maturities of one year and under.

The domestic long-term component includes Government debentures and commercial banks' long-term loans

Private-Sector Export Drive

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

Government has reaffirmed its pledge to support the growth of the private sector in Barbados' economy.

Dr. Richard Haynes, Minister of Finance, stated at the eleventh Sir Winston Scott Memorial Lecture yesterday: "The Government's vision of Barbados is one in which the economy will be predominantly private sector driven and in which future growth will derive mainly from the export of goods and services."

To this end, Dr. Haynes said that the government's first step had been the reduction in personal and corporate taxes. The next step he suggested was to "concentrate on eliminating waste and inefficiency and controlling expenditure in the public sector."

Dr. Haynes said that the government also recognised its responsibility in taking the lead in realising certain investment opportunities and would therefore be investing in some projects jointly with the private sector.

However, he said there were cases when complete divestment was necessary and therefore the government was currently involved in negotiations for the sale of some tourism properties "and had identified other enterprises from which it would like to withdraw."

Dr. Haynes restated Government's commitment "to encourage and support the co-ordinated response of the key sectors of our economy, agriculture, industry, tourism and other services."

Planning strategy

In the agricultural sector, Dr. Haynes said the Barbados National Bank was currently devising a strategy which would help in the financial rehabilitation of agriculture.

In the manufacturing sector, Dr. Haynes said the Government would help ensure effective marketing abroad but added that it was the responsibility of exporters to pay particular attention to the quality of workmanship, timeliness of delivery and after sales service.

Dr. Haynes remarked that the Government would take steps to ensure that Barbadian exports were competitive. Therefore, the Government's fiscal policies had been slanted to reduce production costs in the foreign exchange generating sectors of the economy.

It is the government's policy, Dr. Haynes said, to continue the previous administration's efforts to make Barbados into an off-shore business centre. Dr. Haynes said that the Government planned to extend its connections with other nations in an effort to make Barbados into an off-shore banking facility.

In closing, Dr. Haynes stated that "our best chance at responding effectively to the challenges of the decade ahead will be found in our institutional and human capacities. Measuring up to these challenges will not be a simple task; it requires the selfless application of our collective intellect, our collective wisdom and our collective goodwill."

Improvement in Foreign Exchange

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

Finance Minister Dr. Richie Haynes has reported an improvement in the country's foreign exchange position.

He said that the foreign exchange reserves on December 15 this year were \$15.5 million higher than for the corresponding period a year ago.

The Finance Minister said that the situation was so despite the fact that the country borrowed less this year and faced higher amortisation and debt service payments.

Dr. Haynes made these statements in an address given last Wednesday night at the Frank Collymore Hall on the occasion of the Sixth Sir Winston Scott Memorial Lecture.

The Minister told the audience that a small country had to build

higher levels of protection and therefore maintained higher levels of foreign reserves per unit of imports than a large country.

Dr. Haynes said: "Because of the high liquidity that presently exists in our banking system, the Government has been able to obtain more of its credit from the commercial banks and from private individuals by providing them with attractive investment instruments."

"Consequently, we have reduced our reliance on Central Bank accommodation and will continue to do so since we do not feel that there is as yet any danger that Government's needs will crowd out those of the private sector," he said.

Was aware

However, he noted that

Government was aware of the danger and would carefully monitor the situation to ensure that it did not occur.

Dr. Haynes said that despite various misleading statements in the Press, the total net increase in borrowings since the end of May by way of debentures, treasury bills and savings bonds amounted to only \$30 million as of last Wednesday.

The Minister said: "Government has not as yet drawn down one cent of the U.S.\$40 million loan which it contracted and the Central Bank is holding in a special account some \$34 million of the Yen loan contracted earlier."

"In addition, Government's overdraft at the Central Bank has been reduced by \$7.8 million since May," he added.

Rising Trade Deficit

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 24 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

Barbados' trade deficit was up 41.8 per cent for the first seven months of the year, compared with the same period in 1985, according to a Central Bank report.

Official statistics show the deficit amounted to \$390.7 million compared with \$275.5 million for the January to July period of last year.

Total imports for the first seven months of the year were valued at \$743.3 million, with total exports worth \$353.3 million.

Exports down

Exports of electrical components, clothing and sugar were down this year while rum exports rose to \$5.1 million for the seven-month period, as against exports worth \$4.6 million for the same period last year.

Barbados imported less food and beverages this year (\$87.2 million) compared with \$89.8 million last year.

Motor car imports worth \$19.8 million this year, were up 25.7 per cent from the \$15.7 million of 1985.

The 1986 imports figure compare with a decline from \$415.6 million last year but domestic exports

were down at \$280 971 for the first seven months of 1986 compared with the 1985 January — July figure of \$281 190.

The bank report, quoting figures from the Government's Statistical Service, showed that sugar exports of \$27.2 million this year were down from \$39.5 million last year.

Exports of electronic components, the leading source of, revenue hit by the closure earlier this year of the big American firm Intel, were down at

\$158.2 million, from \$164 million last year.

Clothing also declined, with exports worth \$25.2 million this year compared with \$26 million last year.

On the imports side, Barbados reduced its food bill from \$89.8 million last year to \$87.2 million this year.

Car imports were up at \$19.8 million as against \$15.7 million last year.

Barbados recorded a trade deficit of just over half a billion dollars last year. — (CANA).

/9274

CSO: 3298/093

BRIEFS

CEMENT PLANT LOSSES—Bridgetown, 2 Jan (CANA)—Finance Minister Dr Richie Haynes says the U.S.100 million dollar Arawak cement plant jointly owned by the Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago Governments was a bad investment. Haynes told the WEEKEND NATION a government-recruited group of international experts had made an evaluation of the project and concluded the highest price it would fetch on the market today was U.S.20 million dollars. Trinidad and Tobago has a 49 percent shareholding, Barbados the remaining 51 percent. Haynes said the plant was chalking up losses in the region of 28 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) a year, largely because there was no guaranteed market but the local one, and exports were being sold at a tremendous loss. With three months production, that plant can meet all of Barbados' needs..., he said. Haynes ruled out the possibility of government putting its shares up for sale. He said government was talking with a U.S. cement operation about possible assistance in reducing losses. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2026 GMT 2 Jan 87 FL] /9274

CSO, 3298/093

VISITING UK, GUYANESE MISSIONS PUT TRADE IN SPOTLIGHT

Esquivel Remarks to British

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 30 Nov 86 pp 1, 12

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Manuel Esquivel speaking to members of the British Trade Mission in Belmopan last Monday, outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the Belize economy, indicating what are the targets of the present administration. He said that the government's concept is to diversify the country's production output in agriculture and light industry and to expand the economy by creating new jobs.

"Our trade is too small and our money pool is too small. We want participation from the United States and we would like your participation as well", the Prime Minister said.

Speaking without notes for a solid quarter of an hour, the Prime Minister dealt deftly with important aspects of the economy to give the trade mission a broad view. Belize, he said, had the capacity to do a great deal more in agricultural production notably with rice and corn, but there was a problem associated with storage capacity and other basic infrastructure.

Sugar Production

Of the 90,000 tons of sugar that Belize produces, the Prime Minister said, only about 6,500 tons are consumed locally and Belize has to depend on export sales. The European Economic Community provides steady income for sugar but there are growing concerns about the future. The Belize share of the U.S. market for sugar has shrunk from 24,000 tons to 18,000 and there is the danger of a further constriction of possibly 25 per-cent during the new season.

Belize, he said, had one of the lowest production costs for sugar in the world; yet world market prices for sugar is below production costs. He recalled the words of Mr. John Mitchell, a leader of the British sugar industry, who commented once to him that in New York a ton of sugar was cheaper to buy than a ton of sand.

Tourism

Belize looked to tourism as one important means of diversification, Mr. Esquivel

said, but tourism is a capital intensive industry. The hope for expansion and diversification in tourism would have to depend on investments from abroad. Estimates indicate that Belize hosts about 100,000 tourists a year.

Belize has never explored or tried to exploit its economic zone of 200 miles for deep sea fishing, the Prime Minister said, adding: "We want to make progress there"

Touching on plans for the immediate future, the Prime Minister said the Government is at the point where it will begin work on the airport expansion early in the new year. It was also negotiating with PETROJAM of Jamaica to take over the sugar factory at Libertad for the production of alcohol for further processing to ethanol. The government had not been able to finalize that agreement however, even though he has been told that all the points have been covered for this \$25 million investment.

In the south of the country an extensive agricultural project was under way in Stann Creek and Toledo for rice production and cacao production.

Infrastructure

In its efforts to improve infrastructure the government has already approved a \$15

million upgrading for electricity for the city and the rest of the country and to provide for a "massive expansion nationwide" of the Belize telephone service. Belize, he said, was seeking "privatization" of the telecommunication industry by creating one company which would be 25 per-cent foreign owned. Negotiations with Cable & Wireless and with British Telecommunications were already in progress.

Diversification

Belize is working on a free trade zone to be established along its northern border with Mexico for manufacturing industries intended for Mexico and the rest of the world. The plan is to buy Mexican electricity to power the industries which would have access to Caribbean and European markets through the EEC. Government also expects the construction of a new 80 room hotel to take shape in Belize City next year. If the feasibilities work out, the hotel would in time be expanded to 200 rooms.

The Prime Minister concluded his presentation by saying that Belize's adverse trade balance with the United States (of some \$30 million) is not good for Belize and cannot be healthy for the United States.

More on UK Mission's Visit

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 30 Nov 86 pp 6, 8

[Text]

Members of the British Trade Mission on a five day visit to Belize wanted to know about the CBI and CARICOM impact on Belize, about

Belize's capacity for agriculture, about its investment incentives and its efforts to develop indigenous energy sources.

These were some of the questions put to the Prime Minister, Mr. Manuel Esquivel as he invited questions from the 17 member of the mission last Monday in Belmopan.

Concerning CBI the Prime Minister said that Belize has not been able to take advantage of the Basin initiative for several reasons, the principal one being that Belize was simply not ready to capitalize on the free trade provisions. The country he said, is slowly progressing to the point where it can benefit. CBI benefits have come mainly in the area of advice and scholarships, the P.M. said.

Belize's relationship with CARICOM, the Prime Minister said, was "very largely a political one." Belize does have a trade surplus with CARICOM, though a declining one, and efforts are being made to establish a trading relationship, in spite of the geographical problems of infrequent shipping, limited air access and the regional barriers which make the process of free trade difficult. The fact remained however, that CARICOM is a market of 5 million and it is worth the effort to penetrate it more fully.

On grain production the

Prime Minister said he was confident that if Belize had more storage facilities its farmers would produce a lot more corn and rice.

Belize, he said, was depending on private sector financing to find alternative sources of indigenous energy. Currently, he said, there is interest in wood burning and Hydro for supplemental energy programmes.

On development incentives, he said, a tax-free period of 15 years is the maximum time available along with duty free importation of raw material. There is no capital gains tax and no restriction on the repatriation of invested capital.

At the close of the question period Mr. Tony Buckhardt, leader of the mission, rose to thank the Prime Minister and to praise Belize. "It is gratifying" he said, "for us to come to a country which is part of the Commonwealth and to encounter such a fine example of working democracy."

The trade mission, Mr. Buckhardt said, had been greatly encouraged by the new economic climate and he assured the Belize government that help and advice are available. Britain can offer management expertise marketing and packaging expertise and would be delighted to do so, to help Belize gain access to E.E.C. markets, he said.

Mission From Guyana

Belize City AMANDALA in English 5 Dec 86 p C

[Text]

BELMOPAN, Wed. Dec. 3

A six-member trade mission from Guyana left Belize over the weekend after a four-day tour. The mission comprised

representatives of both the public and private sectors of Guyana. It was headed by the Ministry of Trade, Cde. (Comrade) Winston Murry and included:

Cde. Avinash Bhagwandin (Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade)

Cde. Debra Hardy (Foreign Trade Officer, Ministry of Trade)

Cde. Wilfred Lee (Executive Chairman, Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation)

Cde. Mike Brassington (General Manager, Guyana Refrigerator Ltd.) and

Cde. Andrea Braithwaite (Marketing Manager, Ricks & Sare Industries).

On Friday the Guyanese Minister of Trade and the two other government officials met in Belmopan with their Belizean counterparts.

At the end of the discussions Guyanese Trade Minister Murry commented that the talks have been useful. He also stated that plans have been finalized for the sale of Guyanese pharmaceuticals to Belize and was hopeful that there will be other areas in which the two countries could trade. For his part, Minister Juan said, "the mission and the discussions were very fruitful. The discussions opened the avenue for greater intra-regional trade. There is also the possibility of joint ventures with our CARICOM Sister States."

The Guyanese trade mission also held discussions with the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and with the Belize Export and Investment Promotion Unit.

The visit by the Guyanese trade mission is the first ever from a Sister Member State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It is expected that in the near future a similar mission from Jamaica will visit Belize. (GIS)

/9274

CS0, 3298/094

UDP VICTORY IN BELIZE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION ASSESSED

Scope of Win

Belize City AMANDALA in English 12 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 12

Belize City voters on Wednesday returned nine candidates of the ruling United Democratic Party to office in the Belize City Council by a margin of landslide proportions, about eighteen hundred plus straight votes. The margin was more than a mile.

The statistical breakdown follows in order of merit:

UDP

1. Deanna Nisbet - 6,758
2. Frank Lizama - 6,743
3. Ellis Arnold - 6,710
4. Bernard Pitts - 6,694
5. Michael Young - 6,675
6. K.B. Smith - 6,665
7. Cyril Davis - 6,655
8. Edward Eau - 6,635
9. Ramon Vasquez - 6,633

PUP

10. Lita Krohn - 4,999
11. Remijio Montejo - 4,929
12. Glen Quallo - 4,928
13. Steve Latchman - 4,908
14. Carlos Diaz - 4,897
15. Louis Humphreys - 4,844
16. Everal Waight - 4,830
17. Mark Usher - 4,790
18. William Reyes - 4,729

BPP

19. Nicholas Pollard, Sr. - 201
20. Fred Hunter - 190
21. Walter Whittaker - 109
22. Lola Delgado - 98
23. Collington Beeks - 96

24. Leslie Gentle - 93
25. James Pasqual - 80
26. Leonard Reyes - 80

The issue of the PUP organ, THE BELIZE TIMES, published this morning, claims in its headline "PUP Narrows the Gap." If this is so, the narrowing is almost imperceptible and perhaps irrelevant. The margin of UDP victory on Wednesday was fewer than a hundred votes smaller than the UDP victory margin in the 1983 City Council elections. In 1983, the margin was 1900 straight votes, whereas in the 1984 general elections the total of UDP city votes was 3,008 more than the PUP total, and in the 1985 bye-elections, UDP candidates won by an average of 2550 straight votes. (See story on page 4.)

A trifle disturbing to observers of the democratic process was the low voter turnout, 11,994 out of a total of 24,255 registered electors, or less than 50 per cent.

A few election observations follow:

(1) The fact that the only lady candidates for both the major parties, Mrs. Nisbet and Mrs. Krohn, topped their respective slates, might indicate the first stirrings of a women's vote.

(2) The UDP was better financed than the PUP. One northside PUP election day worker mentioned that while they were eating potted

meat sandwiches, their UDP counterparts were being treated to steaks in a Chinese restaurant.

(3) The PUP won only one division outright, which was Lake Independence. This, only the day after Housing Minister Hubert Elrington, the area representative, formally gave 100 newly constructed houses in the area to homeowners.

(4) The UDP won all other divisions outright, except for Pickstock which went UDP 6, PUP 3; and Fort George - UDP 8, PUP 1.

In next week's issue, after we have gained access to more detailed statistics, we should be able to do more analysis.

Before we proceed, let us not forget to mention the fabulous performance of Returning Officer Owen Morrison; his Assistants Georgia Belisle, Gilda Tucker, Jennifer Hyde, Keith Wright, Mervin Cacho, and Ernest Raymond; Election Clerk Lewin Moguel; Assistant Election Clerks Barbara Elrington, Geraldine Davis, John Neal, Harold Godfrey and John Frazer; and all the public officers who handled the voting and counting.

Official results were issued within 6 hours of the closing of the polls, the earliest tabulation ever, by far.

The choices of the voters indicated that they believed there was no comparison between the PUP City Council of 1980-1983, and the UDP Council of 1983-1986. The UDP inherited a dirty and

discouraged city in 1983 from a PUP Council destroyed by corruption and ideological quarrels.

The UDP system of garbage collection, in particular, became efficient to the point of superiority.

Some preliminary reports indicate that even after four straight disasters in four consecutive election years, the PUP remains constitutionally unable to look itself in the face where its structural and image problems are concerned. For the last two years, the PUP has been maintaining its self-esteem by flirting with ethnicity, but this is not a long term solution.

Where the UDP is concerned, one has to wonder, human nature being what it is, if the Lord Acton principle will not now become more of a factor, the government becoming now so extremely powerful. (See editorial on page 2.)

As a postscript, it should be noted that in the issue of the UDP organ, THE BEACON, published this morning, the GONE ABROAD columnist, believed to be a government minister, has called for the re-election of Frank Lizama as Mayor.

A powerful faction of the ruling party has been signifying for months now that Lizama will be replaced as Mayor, so the election to the Mayoralty will be an interesting sideshow during the holiday season.

The same columnist admits that the Lita Krohn issue "should never have been raised".

'Message' for PUP

Belize City AMANDALA in English 12 Dec 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

During the Belize City Council campaign concluded this week, the PUP called for voters to send a message to Belmopan. Instead, city voters sent a message to the PUP: Papa's got to get a brand new bag.

It was a case of four strikes, and out. There were already three strikes on George Price's PUP: devastating election defeats in December of 1983, December of 1984, and March of 1985. (See story on page 4.)

Under the circumstances, one has to believe that the PUP for much of next year will be experiencing severe convulsions as Belize's oldest

and most successful political party tries to replace the formula which won it five general elections with one more suited to the times.

This means, for all intents and purposes, that next year there will be no opposition in Belize. The PUP will be in a purge; the CDP is not a parliamentary factor, and the BPP has now been proven electorally to be a figment of Louie's imagination.

We have passed this way before. After 1979, there was no opposition. Because nature abhors a vacuum, other institutions, such as newspapers, find themselves drawn into the vacuum where there should be an opposition.

But a newspaper, even one as well-established as AMANDALA, is simply not organized to perform the task of a political opposition. The next year will be a trying one for us as we struggle to avoid clashing with a government which has serious philosophical differences with us.

AMANDALA, when you scratch it, you see, is a roots paper. And the UDP, at its core, has a substantial business bias.

In 1981, AMANDALA, REPORTER, and BEACON, along with organizations like BAM, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Public Service Union, fought the Heads of Agreement until the UDP again became a real opposition, in January of 1983.

What can be done in 1987?

We are saying that our two-party parliamentary system must have a strong opposition in order to function well. The PUP is not now a strong opposition and will not so be for some time.

The UDP leaders, those who are doing right as well as those who are doing wrong, will now feel their oats. Wednesday's landslide followed two years in Belmopan and three years in City Hall. It was an incumbency's dream come true.

The problem for people like us is the Alexander the Great syndrome. Alexander, you know, sat down and cried because at the age of 30 he had no more worlds to conquer: he had already conquered all the known world. The UDP does not have to cry because there are no political parties left for it to conquer: they can look around for independent newspapers to threaten.

It is true that Wednesday's was a very low poll, but that is not a strong reason to question the validity of the government's victory.

It is also true that the most powerful section of the PUP is the north, led by an ethnic politician. This is a real area of concern for Belizean nationalists. It is crystal clear following Wednesday's election that the most powerful politician in the PUP is not the present leader. But if you replace the leader with the most powerful politician, what you will have is a party with an ethnic attitude.

And today, ethnicity is even more of a threat to Belize than the Guatemalan claim. Ethnicity already exists in the CDP. If the PUP follows suit, large cracks will show in this jewel of ours.

Anyway, you will understand by now why we have viewed Wednesday's landslide with sobriety. (AMANDALA declared neutrality in the Citco election because the UDP no longer needed our support.)

Insofar as foreign stakes in Wednesday's election, it was a victory for Washington (and Israel). This was a pro-U.S. poll of a high order. Some people think this is good, and some people think this is bad. The bottom line is that the voters of the city have spoken loud and they have spoken clear. All power to the people.

Removal of Mayor

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 21 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Just a few days after their victory at the polls, the UDP City Council was already quarrelling over the issue of Mayorship.

Incumbent Mayor Frank Lizama, with the support of the Prime Minister made it quite clear that he expected to remain as Mayor. But other elements would not have this. A heavy campaign spear-headed by the Minister of Works, Hubert Elrington, wanted to have the quiet K.B. Smith, a new comer as the new Mayor. When it was clear that Elrington had won the battle, Lizama threatened to resign, storming out of their "secret-meeting" last Saturday night.

Wednesday morning K.B. Smith was officially elected Mayor. From the lectern at City Hall, K.B. Smith promised the electorate better streets, efficient garbage collection, cleaner drains and a general improvement in the infrastructure of the City. This he said was in line with the UDP Manifesto for Belize city.

Home Affairs, Permanent Secretary Wally Brown who will soon be retiring officiating Wednesday's ceremony, said that although the 1987 City Council budget has not yet been completed, City Hall can already count on \$1,720,000.00 in property taxes and \$521,000.00 in fire rates plus additional revenue from other sources.

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CSO: 3298/094

FISHERMEN PROTEST GOVERNMENT PERMIT FOR FOREIGN FIRM

Action by Fishermen

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1, 16

[Text]

**BELIZE CITY,
WEDNESDAY, DEC 3, 1986**

Fishermen today protested the decision by Government to grant a permit to a foreign controlled company, United Resources Limited, to fish for scale fish and lobster in Belizean waters.

For two hours, the fishermen representing cooperatives from all over the country peacefully picketed the office of the Prime Minister.

Following a meeting last Thursday in Belmopan with the Prime Minister and officials of the Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association, the fishermen had decided to call off their scheduled picketing, after an undertaking from the Prime Minister that the operations of United Resources Limited would be halted pending an investigation into the matter.

The Fishermen however decided to proceed with the picketing when they learnt that Foreign Minister Dean Barrow who was also present at the Belmopan meeting, announced at a UDP public meeting Tuesday night, that his government would

still go ahead with the fishing project in spite of the opposition of the fishermen.

This was seen as clear evidence that the Government was not acting in good faith and was merely trying to gain time until after the City Council elections. The fishermen, it is understood, had further been suspicious of Esquivel and Barrow's candour at the Belmopan meeting in claiming that they knew nothing of the fishing venture. In the case of Barrow, the Company in question had been formed by his law firm and had registered offices at his firm's address. Esquivel, on the other hand, in his September 22, Independence Address had made direct reference to the project.

In the meantime, the Fishermen have pledged to continue to protest the take over of their industry by foreign interests.

"It is a matter of bread and butter," said one fisherman, "There is no way we can compete with such a huge company. If government allows this project to go through, the local fishermen will soon be forced into bankruptcy."

Lindo, Barrow Support for Foreigners

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1, 6

[Text]

**BELIZE CITY,
THURSDAY DEC 4, 1986**

Speaking to a visiting British Trade Mission Agriculture Minister Dean Lindo told them that his Ministry is determined to bring in foreign interests into the fishing industry. He said: "If the local fishing cooperatives are not prepared to undertake expansion I will have no hesitation in inviting others including foreign investors to come in and do so."

Mr. Lindo according to the pro-government newspaper "THE REPORTER (for Sunday November

30, Page 9) added "that even the shallower offshore waters, an area that national fishermen have traditionally had to themselves, would come under review for foreign investors demonstrating a willingness to harvest fin d fish".

Today the UDP released a TV ad defending their decision to give the foreign owned company, United Resources Limited a concession to fish in the southern waters.

The political ad voiced by the Barrow boys, lawyer Denys and Minister Dean dishonestly accused the officers and members of Northern Fishermen Cooperative of trying to stop the development of the fishing industry in the south. The ad failed to disclose that the real objections of the Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association came as a result of the highly suspicious nature of this "joint venture" with four fishermen and a big foreign company who will no doubt own and control the entire operation in the south.

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CSO: 3298/094

BRIEFS

AMANDALA--CIA 'TARGET'--Belize City, Fri, 5 Dec--Recent developments indicate that CIA operatives here have targeted AMANDALA as a publication which is dangerous and therefore should be discredited. Our sources say that the newspaper has been described as a powerful and incorruptible nationalist institution which is too independent of the traditional political party configurations to be controlled. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 5 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

UDP CONTROL OF SECRET SERVICE--The news that the Special Branch of the Police Force has now been taken over by the UDP political directorate is a most dangerous development. The secret service of Belize will now be controlled by Thompson. The members will no longer be answerable to the Commissioner of Police. Fears have been expressed that our local CIA will now be manipulated by the politicians and used for intimidation and repression against suspected political enemies. [Text] [From the unsigned column "Focus"] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 7 Dec 86 p 7] /9274

SUGAR IMPORTS--Some two thousand tons of white sugar are currently being unloaded at the Belize City harbour. Since the UDP government decided to close the Libertad Sugar Factory, last year, sugar has had to be imported from Honduras for local consumption. In the meantime, Mr Esquivel's promise to reopen Libertad for the production of ethanol is still in the air, and no agreement has yet been reached for its reopening. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 7 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

PUP DIVISIONAL CONVENTION--The People's United Party of the Toledo East electoral division met in annual convention Sunday, November 23, 1986, in Punta Gorda. The convention was attended by delegates from the district capital and rural area as well as from the Independence area of the Stann Creek District. The convention elected a Branch Executive Committee whose members are: Ms Alice Gordon, Ms Olivia Sentino, Ms Bethie Zabaneh, Messrs: William Arzu, Mike Espat, James Lambey, Antonio Martinez, Francis B. Martinez, Luke Palacio, Joseph Ramclam, Winston Ramclam and Gilberto Selgado. Present from party headquarters were Party Leader George Price and Chairman Said Musa. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 30 Nov 86 p 9] /9274

CSO: 3298/094

BRIEFS

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE--Roseau, 3 Jan (CANA)--Industrial action has again hit the financially-troubled Roseau City Council, which earlier this week failed to pay wages to its sanitation workers. The workers say they will remain on strike until they are paid. Mayor Cynthia Butler has indicated that the council's financial position remained very weak mainly because tax defaulters have failed to pay arrears. The council has since last year been trying to collect over EC200,000 dollars owed it in property tax with little success. Just before Christmas, the council published a long list of defaulters and Mayor Butler said that further action would be taken to secure outstanding debts. Meanwhile, the garbage has begun to pile up on the streets of Roseau, with the council advising city residents to cooperate by disposing of their waste themselves. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 4 Jan 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/095

BLAIZE: UNIONS MISREPRESENT, LEFT SEEKS CONFRONTATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Dec. 22, Cana—PRIME MINISTER Herbert Blaize said public sector unions here were misrepresenting Government's position in pay negotiations, and accused disgruntled leftists of seeking a confrontation on the issue.

Mr Blaize said, in a weekend radio broadcast, that the unions were deliberately misleading their membership on the options put forward by his Government, aimed at settling the prolonged dispute.

He said his two-year-old administration had learnt that the unions, in meet-

ings last week, chose to inform their members only about one of the two State proposals.

"...I consider such action highly deceptive, and calculated to provoke ill-will among public workers," he told the nation.

Mr Blaize alleged that elements closely-associated with the previous left-wing Government, who opposed demands by the three unions for increased wages in 1981, were bent on trying to have a confrontation with the Government.

"Let our workers be warned that they can be used to their disadvantage by elements which seek to put forward their and their masters' ill-will," he said.

Mr Blaize said the only option which the unions told their members of was one in which workers earning less than \$3,504 annually would be offered a 13 per cent increase in salary for 1985 and 1986.

Those being paid between \$3,504-\$7,344 annually would receive a ten per cent increase for the two years, and those earning up to \$11,436 per annum would receive a four per cent increase for this year alone.

According to Mr Blaize, the option which the unions failed to mention was a proposed ten per cent increase for those earning up to \$3,504 annually, and a five per cent across the board for all others.

Before the negotiations broke down, the Public Workers Union, Grenada Union of Teachers, and Technical and Allied Workers Union called on the Government to increase its \$3-million offer for 1986 by a further \$2.5 million.

The Government has maintained consistently in the negotiations that it would not pay workers any increases for 1985, because of the tax relief measures which it said were included in the 1986 Budget.

Mr Blaize also repeated Government's position that it would not go beyond the \$3-million package.

"Government...cannot entertain any requests for increases beyond the \$3 million. To do so would be to reverse the process of fiscal and economic reforms, which are already in place for restoring fiscal and economic stability in Grenada," he said.

/9274

CSO: 3298/083

MBPM'S ROJAS COMMENTS FROM HAVANA ON COARD TRIAL

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 3 Dec 86 p 2

[Open Letter]

[Text]

Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement
Havana Office
November 8, 1986

Sisters and brothers,

It has been reported in a Caribbean News Agency (CANA) dispatch of August 14, 1986, that Bernard Coard in his statement to the court in the Maurice Bishop murder trial in St. George's Grenada, made a number of slanderous remarks about my involvement in the Grenada Revolution and in the fateful events of October 19, 1983. These false and completely unsubstantiated charges that I am an agent of the U.S. CIA have subsequently appeared in a front-page headline and page article in THE NEW YORK CARIB NEWS of August 26. This smear was then repeated in a major report on the trial in the U.S. weekly IN THESE TIMES. It has also been presented as fact in a document entitled "Grenada 1983: Whose Struggle for Power", published by a New York-based group called Friends for Jamaica; this document has been advertised in the U.S. weeklies the GUARDIAN and IN THESE TIMES.

I was not contacted by any of these publications to comment on and rebut these dangerous and irresponsible lies about my own character and about the events of October 19 that led to the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and many other Grenadian patriots. I wish to respond to Coard's charges and to clarify the record on his falsifications.

Shortly before he was brutally assassinated by Coard and his clique on October 19, 1983, the late Prime Minister instructed me at his press

secretary to go to the Telephone Company in St. George's and try to inform the outside world, in particular the Grenadians living abroad, that the patriotic supporters of the Revolution had risked their lives to release him from his house arrest and that he was preparing to speak to the tens of thousands of Grenadians who had gathered in the Market Square.

I proceeded with four other Bishop supporters to the telephone building and discovered the gates padlocked and chained. We found a few telephone company workers, along with a female employee of the Ministry of Interior who had been planted there by Coard's group some days before. We called on them to open the gates and assist us in making the international calls, as the Prime Minister had requested. The workers responded positively and assisted us without hesitation in manning the switchboards.

While in the process of telephoning the outside world, the military attack by Coard's forces took place at Fort Rupert where Bishop and his supporters had gone following his rescue from house arrest. I was able to give an eyewitness report by phone to the Caribbean News Agency of what I could see and hear from the window of the telephone building: cannon fire, followed by bursts of automatic rifle fire, smoke rising from the courtyard of the fort, people jumping over the walls and running in panic in all directions.

Shortly after the attack, a group of about 100 enraged Bishop supporters gathered at the gates of the telephone building and demanded that they be given a small quantity of weapons stored in a room at the back of the building. They wanted the weapons to defend themselves against the soldiers who had attack Fort Rupert. I refused to distribute the weapons, calling on them in-

stead to be calm and avoid bloodshed, since this was what Bishop had desired when I had spoken to him earlier that day. I then left the Telephone Company and made for my house in nearby Grand Anse, not knowing that the Prime Minister and other Grenadian revolutionaries and patriot had been murdered at Fort Rupert. I heard the sad news later that night when it was announced by General Hudson Austin on the radio.

In that same broadcast, Austin -- nominal head of Coard's new government -- announced an indefinite, round-the-clock curfew; violators would be shot on sight, he warned. I spent the days of the curfew in hiding, since Coard and his gang had mounted a military manhunt for me. My wife was arrested and detained at Fort Frederick at that time, also on orders of his gang. Playing the "soft cop", General Austin personally tried to trick my wife into revealing my whereabouts, but failed.

Four days after the American invasion on October 25, my family and I were found in a house in the Lime area of southern St. George's by U.S. soldiers. Along with other families in the area, we were ordered out of the buildings so that house-to-house searches could be carried out. We were ordered to go to the site on the Point Salines airport, then controlled by the invading forces.

I was separated from my family and interrogated at gunpoint. My family was sent to Barbados on a U.S. military transport plane. Some hours later I, too, was expelled and sent to Barbados, exactly four years after Maurice Bishop had invited me to come serve the Grenadian Revolution as a Caribbean-born, anti-imperialist journalist. I subsequently worked for the Revolution as a member of the New Jewel Movement; as editor of the FREE WEST INDIAN Grenada's main newspaper; and as the Prime Minister's press secretary.

Before leaving Grenada, I was interviewed by the first group of journalists allowed into the country by the invading U.S. forces. When asked my views on the invasion, I condemned it as an aggression against Grenadian sovereignty and as a violation of international law, and I also said that if Prime Minister Bishop were alive, he too would have opposed this illegal action of the U.S. government. This condemnation of the criminal Yankee occupation of Grenada was prominently reported in both the Caribbean and the U.S. press at the time.

No U.S. - installed government such as that in Grenada today has either the moral or political legitimacy to imprison, try, or render judgment on Coard and the others responsible for the murderous events of October 19, 1983. But Coard's decision to use the trial proceedings as a platform to justify his counterrevolutionary crimes is a slap in the face to progressive and democratic world opinion. Coard has resorted to a mixture of lies, half-truths, cheap slandering, and misinformation in his diatribes to the court,

the same court which only weeks ago he was hypocritically describing as unconstitutional and illegitimate. His tactic is to divert attention from his responsibility for the crimes of October 19, to create a smokescreen that would hide his culpability and minimise his isolation from the progressive and revolutionary forces in the Caribbean and Latin America.

History will never forgive Coard, because history has already passed its verdict of guilt by complicity in the Fort Rupert massacre and in the destruction of the Grenadian Revolution. He was the undisputed leader of the so-called Central Committee majority that ordered Bishop's assassination and of the so-called Revolutionary Military Council that terrorised shoot-to-kill curfew. History will remember him only for his enormous vanity, unbridled ambition, and immense hypocrisy. He and his gang gave to imperialism the popular Grenada Revolution on a silver platter. Coard opened the door to the U.S. invasion.

Bishop gave his life for the Grenadian Revolution and for the poor and humble people of the Caribbean. History will never forget him. His spirit will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all patriotic Caribbean people.

Coard, in stark contrast, was prepared to order the killing of his compatriots in the name of the Revolution, but not prepared to die for it; prepared to approve and even applaud those who pulled the triggers on Bishop, Unison Whiteman, and the other martyrs, but not prepared to account honestly to the Grenadian people for these monstrous counterrevolutionary crimes. Coard's refusal to acknowledge his responsibility for the events of October 19 at Fort Rupert repeats his cowardice in surrendering without a fight to the American forces after he and his gangsters in the "Revolutionary Military Council" had called on the Grenadian people "to fight to the last man, woman, and child".

Coard's actions have set back the forces of peace, liberty, and social progress in the Caribbean for many years and have tarnished the image of the progressively movement in the eyes of the region masses. Furthermore, these actions have created the conditions for current U.S. domination and militarisation of Grenada.

Coard's hysterical attacks on the leadership of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) during his egotistical grandstanding in the trial no doubt evoked smiles of appreciation in Washington, apart from revealing how traitorous he is to the just cause of the working people. His aim is to undermine the credibility of the MBPM by attempting to discredit it and slander individuals identified with it. By attacking the movement dedicated to preserving the ideas and programmes of Maurice Bishop, Coard is once again demonstrating his contempt for Bishop and his legacy, notwithstanding his hypocritical statements that he and Bishop were close both politically and socially.

The Grenadian masses will never forget that it was Coard who authorised his infantile, phrase-mongering minions to publicly slander Brother Bishop as "right wing", "opportunists", "counter-revolutionary", and even "worse than Gairy", and that it was he who finally organised the liquidation of Bishop, his self-perceived rival since the mid-1970's.

If, as Coard now says, he was shocked and traumatised by Comrade Bishop's death, why did he not proclaim his disapproval to the world in the days between Bishop's assassination and the Yankee invasion?

Why did Coard -- the de facto leader of the party and government on October 19 -- not order the immediate arrest of Bishop's murders, institute a period of national mourning, and hand over the remain of Bishop and the other martyrs to their families for a dignified burial?

And why did he not put a stop to the mis-named Revolutionary Military Council's lying statements over Radio Free Grenada about the events of October 19? The answer is simple, because he was the very author of those statements.

Finally, we are confident that the judgment of history will ultimately condemn imperialism as well as Coardism for their crimes in Grenada and will vindicate Maurice Bishop, his ideas, his example, and the popular revolution that he led with consummate skill, dignity, and courage.

Long live the patriotic Grenadian people!

Love live the memory of Maurice Bishop!

Down with the enemies of the masses!

Let us go forward on our feet,
never on our knees!

In solidarity,

Don Rojas
Havana, Cuba.

/9274

CSO· 3298/083

ECONOMIST ON IMPACT OF LOWER COFFEE PRICES

PA132218 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Dec 86

[Commentary by economist Jose Molina Calderon: "Nationalization of coffee Exports"]

[Text] The packaged swindle, as the social and economic reorganization plan is fondly called, will drink bitter coffee during this Christmas and New Year season. The brutal drop in international coffee prices by more than 50 percent have entirely changed all of the economic plans for the end of 1986 and all of 1987.

Coffee accounts for 50 percent of Guatemala's exports and provides the country with hard currency, dollars. Coffee exports will generate 325 million quetzales in export taxes for the government, according to the 1987 national budget recently approved by Congress. Coffee prices that were once \$290 per quintal have dropped to \$139. Three million quintals are to be exported by the end of 1986, and the same is expected in 1987. This variation of coffee prices is giving the Bank of Guatemala a cold sweat because it does not see the much-expected dollars coming in. The same is happening at the Finance Ministry, which will not collect its estimated amount of taxes, and also at the National Coffee Association, ANACAFE, which has a new president and board of directors due to a coup and could currently be likened to a potful of crickets.

The coffee producers themselves allege that the government earns more than they do per quintal produced and exported, and the FGS [not further identified] only collects the documents sent by the Bank of Guatemala with the lowered coffee prices, without being able to even mutter a word. In a way, the export of top grade coffee has been paralyzed. Exporters who bought at high prices today will find that to pay their contracts they must take money from their own pockets for suffer bankruptcy.

The banks and storage houses that stored expensive coffee are terrified when they see that they must sell their product at low prices and suffer losses. The Bank of Guatemala does not dare to forecast what the economy will be like in 1987. Its latest estimate on 6 September 1986 forecasts a GNP growth of 2 percent. The GNP is the measure of the annual economy, or the production of goods and services adjusted for inflation. However, all of the information

available varies substantially. The Finance Ministry, making an effort to understand and compensate for the loss, or rather the non-collection of budgeted taxes, has no other alternative but to hasten the implementation of a three year tax package which until yesterday, awaited to substitute the fiscal income lost with the drop in coffee prices. Therefore, we will be seeing new real estate tax laws, the value-added tax (IVA) law, and a new snake-like income tax law; of course, the use of this law has been banned, but no one is paying attention during these festive days. There will be considerable fiscal activity during the Christmas, New Year, and Epiphany festivities.

The collapse of the economic packaged swindle is not far off. It is not necessary to wait for the country to reach the point of bankruptcy to reestablish a path, although there could be a certain insistence on the continued use of mistaken economic policies until bankruptcy is finally reached. The only proposal different from the packaged swindle is mine. The entire problem is in the export taxes that resulted from an extraordinary income for exporters who used to receive 1 quetzal per dollar and now receive 2.50 quetzales per dollar. The packaged swindle made them agree with exporters on product by product, including coffee. Now they do not pay taxes starting at prices of \$95, which is equivalent to 237 quetzales at the regulated market prices: 2.50 per dollar. Thus, the coffee producers protected their minimum income, and the government gets the leftovers.

However, my different proposal calls for the generalized implementation of this tax in the amount of 30 percent or less on all export products, with the rapid withdrawal or reduction of taxes. Non-traditional products would be compensated with tax credit certificates (CAT). Thus, the tax favoring the government would ensure its income, the government would benefit from the increase, and the lowered prices would be covered. If it were 28 December already, I would attribute all of this to fools' day.

However, the government also knows how to play its game. Now it will return the IVA tax credits. In other words, the IVA has overpaid for the taxpayers, not in cash, but in bonds refundable at 20 percent annually in five years and at a 9 percent annual interest, free of taxes. This blunder comes as a prize for the IVA's lousiness. The amount to be refunded is 70 million quetzales. I hope that as a result of this collapse of coffee prices and in searching for the turkey in this affair, it will not be said that coffee exports must be nationalized.

/12913

CSO: 3248/151

RELATIONS WITH SURINAME ENTERING 'NEW DIMENSIONS'

Joint Ferry Service

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by Dhanraj Ghagwandin]

[Text]

CONTRACTS for the first phase of the Guyana-Suriname joint ferry service were yesterday signed by officials of the two neighbouring Republics and representatives of the Suriname-based firms NAMECO and SESCON.

The signing ceremony took place in the Boardroom of the Ministry of Finance, in the presence of a high level Surinamese delegation, and members of the European Economic Community (EEC) in Guyana, among other officials.

Phase one of the EEC-funded project will entail the building of access roads and the development of sites for two new terminals.

Building of the terminals and the provision of a ferry vessel to ply the Corentyne River will constitute the second phase.

The project is being funded by a grant under the Caribbean Regional

Programme of the Third Lome Convention, involving the European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (EEC-ACP).

According to the local delegate of the EEC, Mr. Claude Heyraud, the initiative represents a key project for development of the Guianas.

The establishment of a ferry on the Corentyne River will create the possibility of a continuous link between Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

In addition, the closing of the sole remaining gap on the coastal road linking the three countries will foster economic and cultural exchanges and facilitate integration of the economies of these countries, Heyraud observed.

The ferry project is among a number of others now under discussion to develop

and integrate the Caribbean region.

Some of these will be financed under the Lome III Convention, a contractual aid and trade agreement between the EEC and ACP States.

Signing the contracts on behalf of the Guyana Government was Cde. Hubert Thompson, Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, while Mr. H. Illes, Deputy National Authority Officer of the EEC office in Suriname signed on behalf of his country.

The supervisory consulting contract was awarded to SESCON, which was represented by Walter Asin, while the work contract will be executed by NAMECO, whose representative at yesterday's signing ceremony was Mr. W. Ramdihal, National Director.

The project is expected to be completed in 1988.

Model of South-South Cooperation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 86 pp 4-5

[Text] Prime Minister Hamilton Green and Suriname Ambassador to Guyana, Dr John Kolander, yesterday underlined new dimensions in relations between Guyana and Suriname.

dependence.

He said that during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers, Guyana's commitment to the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention in the affairs of states and the peaceful settlement of disputes was reaffirmed.

Speaking during a reception at the Sijan Plaza on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Suriname's independence, both Cde. Green and Dr. Kolader pointed to the recent discussions between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries as laying the basis for deepening bilateral relations.

Yesterday's signing of two contracts for the commencement of works on the joint Guyana-Suriname ferry project is also evidence of developing relations between the two countries.

According to Cde. Green, Guyana and Suriname share a similar colonial legacy and they can be proud of their achievements since in-

Guyana attaches great importance to these principles which also govern relations with Suriname, the Prime Minister said.

Dr. Kolader also referred to the growing relations between the two countries and said the commemoration of his country's 11th independence anniversary happily coincides with the start of a new phase in bilateral relations between the two countries.

The development of close and friendly relations will be further accelerated by the working of a Co-operation Council to oversee the

Implementation of agreements and to deal with all matters affecting bilateral relations, he disclosed.

It is the good understanding between the two countries that can lead to this status of relations, the development of which could serve as a model for South-South co-operation, he continued.

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CSO: 3298/084

VIOLA BURNHAM RETURNS FROM MISSION TO SOVIET UNION

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

VICE-PRESIDENT Viola Burnham is back home from the Soviet Union, where she finalised arrangements for the return of the body of Founder-Leader and late President Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, and held talks on education, cultural and other issues with high level Soviet officials.

Cde Burnham, accompanied to the USSR by Ovril Yaw of the WRSB, also spent some time at the V.I. Lenin health resort, in Sochi, in response to an invitation extended to the WRSB.

During her three-part mission, Cde Burnham spoke with just over 100 Guyanese students currently studying at some 20 institutions in the Soviet Union. The Vice-President, who returned last Thursday, raised in discussions with Soviet officials the possibility of linking the University of Guyana with a few Soviet universities and also the possibility of students undergoing their one-year language training in Guyana.

In relation to the return of the body of Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, Cde Viola Burnham said in an interview yesterday that she was impressed with the work done in preserving the body.

Everything to be done has been done, she said, adding that she returned home assured that adequate

transportation arrangements were in place for the body to come home via Cuba. She has also been assured that the necessary facilities to receive the body on arrival in Guyana would be provided. Cde Burnham expressed appreciation for the level of Soviet co-operation in finalising the arrangements.

The late President's body is scheduled to arrive home Thursday, December 11, for committal at the mausoleum at the Seven Ponds Place of Heroes on Sunday, December 14.

During yesterday's interview, the Vice-President, Education and Social Development, also reported on the highlights of her discussions with Soviet officials on issues in education, culture and other areas.

Cde Burnham was received by her Soviet counterpart, Valentina Schevchenko, a Vice-President of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and President of the Ukraine, one of the Republics of the USSR.

The high Soviet official briefed Cde. Burnham on the thrust of the Soviet Union to increase production by one hundred per cent by the year 2000, and on "the extreme concern felt by the Soviet Union on the issue of disarmament and peace."

In an earlier meeting with Deputy Minister of Higher

Education and secondary specialised training. Arthur Belov, Soviet Education officials explained that education was being accelerated and readjusted in keeping with the objective of doubling production.

Cde Burnham visited one of seven pilot secondary schools in Moscow which caters for students from as young as six years, with an eye to satisfying particular manpower needs in the Soviet economy. She explained that she was particularly interested in the efforts by the Soviets, as a parallel concern exists in Guyana.

The pilot school offers the usual academic subjects of other schools but begins with an emphasis on vocational, technical and scientific subjects. Each of the pilot schools is also associated with an industrial concern, whose personnel teach at the schools.

In this manner, young people graduating at 16 or 17 years make a smooth transition from school to the work environment as trained workers, or according to their displayed higher potentials, go on to other institutions for further

training. The objective of this school system is to provide specialists for industry, Cde Burnham noted.

In discussions with the senior Soviet education officials, Cde Burnham raised the possibility of linking the University of Guyana with a few Soviet universities which have emphases appropriate for Guyana.

Follow-up action is also to be taken on a proposal by Cde Burnham that Guyanese students granted scholarships to study in the USSR undergo their one-year of language training in Guyana.

The discussions, Cde. Burnham said, focused on the selection and progress of students and the possibility of "enhanced implementation" of the Guyana Soviet Educational and Cultural Agreement.

Cde Burnham also visited the Co-operative Institute of Higher Education, where three Guyanese are studying short-term courses.

At the Party level, discussions were held with representatives of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

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CSO: 3298/084

PPP STATEMENT LASHES CONDUCT OF BISHOP TRIAL IN GRENADA

FL221558 Bridgetown CANA in English 1934 GMT 21 Dec 86

[Text] Georgetown, 21 Dec (CANA)---Guyana's Marxist Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) has demanded justice for 14 former government and military officials sentenced to death in Grenada for the murder of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

In a statement, the PPP said: It is understood that the rights of the defendants to a free, fair and public trial were trampled underfoot.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and ex-army chief Hudson Austin were among the 14 sentenced to death for killing Bishop and 10 others during a 1983 palace coup. Three soldiers received prison terms.

It is not for the PPP to sit in judgment as to who is guilty or not guilty of the despicable crimes of 19 October, 1983, when Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several of his colleagues were executed, the Guyana political party said. But like all Caribbean peoples who subscribe to democratic norms of justice and fair play, we say that the accused persons were entitled to a fair trial and not a lynching carnival.

The PPP claimed there were characteristics of grave mistrial in the case.

According to the PPP, independent observers have noted a legion of irregularities. These, it said, included, the armed forces maintaining an armed presence which was intimidatory. The proceedings were conducted in the prison building instead of in the regular court. Members of the press and public were restricted.

In the dock, male defendants were made to look like convicts by having their heads and beards shaved. The accused were unrepresented, as defence lawyers withdrew on grounds that the court was unconstitutional and biased.

The PPP charged that the jury had shown early hostility towards the defendants, before the evidence started, as if it had a mission of placing execution before judgment.

The PPP, headed by former Guyana Premier Dr Cheddi Jagan, said the many irregularities operated to undermine the rule of law and eroded the foundation of justice upon which the court in Grenada should firmly stand.

JAGAN CALLS COUNTRY 'MINIATURE SOUTH AFRICA'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 21 Dec 86 p 30

[Cheddi Jagan column "Straight Talk": "Guyanese Under the PNC, A Miniature South Africa--'There Is Minority Rule With 14% of Popular Support and the Regime Practices Political and Rural Discrimination'"]

[Text]

DESMOND HOYTE is not just the leader of the People's National Congress (PNC); as President, he represents all the people of fraudulent December 1985 elections.

But this has not been shown up by his response to the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), a grouping of five opposition parties, which contested the 1985 elections and represent the vast majority of the people.

In May 1986, the PCD wrote the President asking for an appointment. It wanted to discuss acceptable electoral rules.

There was no response, not even an acknowledgment. A second PCD letter in October brought forth a response, but no appointment: the President's office requested information about the objectives of the PCD, its rules and officers.

The information the President sought of the PCD was public knowledge. And in any case, why such a request when the machinery of municipal elections had already been set in gear for the registration of voters.

Ballots

The Government also ignored a resolution of the National Assembly. An opposition motion had resolved that "the rules of conduct for elections to local authorities and the conditions under which they shall be held be debated in the National Assembly and be subject to the unanimous vote of the As-

sembly."

The PCD demands for free and fair elections include:

(1) An independent Elections Commission, and not the Minister of Home Affairs, to be in full control of the conduct of elections, including the registration of votes and the appointment of electoral officers.

(2) Counting the ballots at the place of poll and immediately following the close of polling.

(3) The abolition of proxies granted "for any good cause"

(4) Exclusion of army interference in the electoral process.

(5) Presence of an official team of overseas observers especially from the Commonwealth and Caricom countries.

(6) Guarantees that authorised opposition candidates and polling agents are not molested and evicted from polling stations as on December 9, 1985.

These are eminently reasonable proposals. But not to the Government. President Hoyte did not implement them during the 1985 general and regional elections. And the ruling party does not want to do so also at the municipal and district levels.

It will be interesting to see what the PNC will do next: as in 1970 when it last held local government elections, it was done in two stages. The PPP boycotted the second stage. Today, faced with the PCD boycott, it must either carry out the reforms demanded and hold elections for the remaining areas, or nominate its councillors. We must

bear in mind Article 71(1) of the Constitution on "local democratic organs", is declaims loftily:

Popular Support

"Local government is a vital aspect of socialist democracy and shall be organised so as to involve as many people as possible in the task of managing and developing the communities in which they live."

Guyana under the ruling PNC is a miniature South Africa. There is minority rule with around 14 per cent of popular support. And the regime practices political and rural discrimination. The only difference between Guyana and South Africa, is this: in South Africa, one-man one-vote is denied; in Guyana, elections are held under adult suffrage, but the people's votes are stolen.

Prof. Carl Stone of the University of the West Indies, after the rigged December 1985 elections, wrote that the "Guyanese state is organised around black racism and a commitment to exclude the Indian majority population from enjoying any real power. Those who governed have projected and verbalised a belief in socialism but what they have established there is a state based on parasitic self-en-

richment by the political directorate and monumental corruption through state ownership and control over the means of production."

Americans

He pointed out that the choice for the opposition parties is "between political impotence as token oppositions in a de facto one-party state and armed resistance to an illegitimate government that has consistently stolen power by fraud and intimidation."

The Guyanese people will have to adopt the battlecry — no taxation without representation — of the American people in their War of Independence.

The international community must render assistance to the Guyanese people, as the French who gave substantial assistance to the American revolutionaries.

After condemning the 1985 "blatant fraud", Henry Forde (now Leader of Opposition in Barbados) called for "maximum pressure, including criticism and, if possible, economic sanctions, to bear on Guyana." The time is ripe for ostracism by all who cherish fairplay, democracy and freedom. Guyana, under the PNC authoritarian regime, must be treated as a political pariah.

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CSO: 3298/084

JAGAN: U.S. HAS PLAN TO UNDERMINE WORLD ECONOMIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Dec. 29, Cana—GUYANA'S Opposition Leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, says cuts in United States' imports of sugar, which will adversely affect Caribbean exporters next year, are part of an official policy to undermine economies of the world.

Jagan, leader of the Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP) and a union of sugar workers, said donations of food aid to compensate for losses of export earnings would not appease sugar-producers.

"That will only be for a year, while the import cuts will be forever," he said in statement.

The United States has announced an overall 41 per cent slashing in sugar imports. Six Caribbean Community (Caricom) exporting countries, with a total quota of 53,440 short tons next year—44.2 per cent down from 95,864 tons this year—are affected.

Better Relations

Jagan said: "Aid in the form of food, and not trade, especially at this time, helps to get rid of current (US) agricultural surplus.

"We need better relations between the developing and developed countries. But the United States is not willing to do this, and is bent on strangling our economies."

Guyana produced 240,842 long tons of sugar this year, with work stoppages and heavy rainfall thwarting the industry from achieving its goal of 260,000 tons.

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CSO: 3298/084

HOYTE ADDRESS ON PNC ANNIVERSARY, BURNHAM ENTOMBMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Dec 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte yesterday called for national effort to accelerate development and generate ever-increasing benefits for all citizens; in an address to the nation on two coinciding events of significance.

Cde Hoyte's address, broadcast on GBC, was made on the occasion of the 22nd Anniversary of the PNC in Government and the committal and entombment of the late President, and Founder-Leader of the PNC, Cde L.F.S Burnham.

The Party has with great success instilled in citizens "a confidence that they have the right, the freedom and the opportunity to take charge of their personal lives, and contribute in full measure, according to their several abilities, to the development of our country."

And to the extent that "we have grown in stature as individual citizens and as a nation, this has been due to the extraordinary efforts of our Founder-Leader."

Cde Hoyte urged that there be no time-wasting in paying lip service to the late leader. "What he would wish of us, I am sure, is careful, honest, methodical work, in our various vocations, to speed up the process of development and generate ever-increasing benefits for all of our people."

The full text reads:

Today, we are observing two events, both of which are invested with a quality of national importance. The first is the ceremony at the shrine of 'The Seven Ponds' — Place of Heroes' to commit with traditional rites and entomb the body of our Founder-Leader and late President of the Republic, Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham. The second is the 22nd Anniversary of the accession to government of the People's National Congress.

It has been customary for us to observe this latter event annually with a public manifestation, usually a rally at the site of some major developmental project. Although technically, these anniversary observances are Party affairs, we have never made them exclusive. We have always sought to involve the generality of citizens to share the occasion and identify with, and take pride in, our common achievements as a nation. We seized the opportunity to raise the political consciousness of our people by demonstrating the real nature of the nation-building process and providing some idea of the magnitude of the investment required for development, and the organisational and other complexities inherent

in the task.

We have used these occasions, too, to give practical effect to those objects in our Party Constitution which preclude us from pursuing narrow partisan interests. Indeed, our Party Constitution specifically mandates us to create equal opportunities for all Guyanese to contribute to the work of national development and share equitably in its fruits; and, more pointedly, it directs us to adopt policies and programmes that are designed to promote "the interests, well-being and prosperity of all the people of Guyana."

CONFIDENCE

If I were to identify our greatest achievement during the past twenty-two years, I would say that we have given substance and meaning to these important objects. We have been able with great success, I believe, to instil in our citizens a confidence that they have the right, the freedom and the opportunity to take charge of their personal lives and contribute in full measure, according to their several abilities, to the development of our country.

To the extent that we have grown in stature as individual citizens and as a nation, this has been due to the extraordinary efforts of our Founder-Leader.

Today, we will be entombing his mortal remains at the beautiful national shrine, the Seven Ponds — Place of Heroes. We will not then be holding any public rally or similar manifestation to mark the Party's 22nd Anniversary in office; for it is more fitting that we should dedicate this day to quiet meditation and reflection on the life and work of the Founder-Leader.

Because of his strenuous labours on our behalf, we have much for which to be thankful, much of which to be proud. Whatever things are of permanent value in our nation today are, in a real sense, an endowment that flowed from his life's work. He strengthened and enriched our national life by the personal example he gave us of uncompromising faithfulness and dedication to this country and its vital interests.

PEACE

In particular, he urged and persuaded us to the acceptance of peace as the supreme national virtue. In a plural society such as ours, this is a wonderful achievement. When we consider the bigotry, the violence, the destruction and the manifold injustices being perpetrated daily in many countries of the world — merely because the society is made up of citizens of different ethnic and cultural origins — we can then better appreciate and count our blessings.

It is idle to attempt at this time to pronounce definitively on the place of our Founder-Leader in history, whether in the context of Guyana or the wider region. That place will be an honourable one; for we cannot deny his achievements. His life's work speaks for itself; and it

has had so profound an impact on our evolution as a nation, that it will always influence our thinking and inform our actions.

It is a happy thought that because of his leadership, we today live in an independent country as a free people who understand and accept the heavy responsibilities of freedom.

INDEPENDENCE

But he was the first to say to us that our condition of freedom was merely a necessary opportunity for us to build a society of our choice in which we could achieve for ourselves a good, decent and rewarding life. He himself had a clear vision of what this society should be; and he devoted all his energies and expended his life in propagating this ideal and working for its realisation. He wished to see in this country a truly Independent people — self-reliant, productive, prosperous and humane; and he strove for the creation of a society in which all Guyanese, by reason of their citizen-ship and their work, would be entitled, as of right, to the basic cultural and material amenities consistent with a civilised existence in this modern world and enjoy a happy and fulfilling life in circumstances of peace and social harmony.

He never tried to deceive us into believing that the achievement of this goal would be easy. He always stressed that it required a strong will and sustained, disciplined, co-operative endeavour.

Today, notwithstanding the difficulties, we have made, and continue to make, great strides forward as a nation. We have only to observe the things we have built and achieved since independence: the roads; the schools; the

hospitals and other health amenities; the housing schemes; the pure water-supply systems; the drainage and irrigation systems. We have only to note the explosion of sporting and cultural activities among our young people and the confidence with which they get about their daily tasks. Admittedly, there is very much more to be done; we still have a long road to travel; but it will be idle for anyone to deny the pervasive and palpable evidence of the progress we have made.

FORGE AHEAD

What we need to do now is to forge ahead. As a serious people, we can have no time for fogliah or negative attitudes or behaviour. For such conduct would be inconsistent with everything the Founder-Leader taught us and would be unworthy of his memory.

Let us then use this occasion to honour him in ways that he would have understood, appreciated and welcomed. He would not wish us to waste our time in paying lip-service to his memory. Words cannot touch him; he is beyond their power. What he would wish of us, I am sure, is careful, honest, methodical work, in our various vocations, to speed up the process of development and generate ever-increasing benefits for all of our people. Ours is a bountiful country rich in opportunity and rewards. Let us get on with the business of developing it.

Today, as we bury our Founder-Leader, may we all draw courage and inspiration from his life and work, reaffirm our loyalty to this great country which it is our good fortune to possess, and rededicate ourselves to its service.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS STUDY WORKINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text]

THE 88 newly-elected Councillors from the country's five Municipalities were yesterday given an insight into the working of the Local Government system and were made aware of aspects of the law relating to operations of Municipalities.

The occasion was an induction exercise organised by the Regional Development Ministry, for the new Councillors at City Hall, and based on the reaction from Councillors during the open floor session, the seminar proved useful.

Councillors enquired about areas such as the term of office of mayors, the procedures for holding elections and the collection of money owed to councils, among other matters.

A Regional Ministry team, including Minister Jeffrey Thomas, Permanent Secretary Stanley Hamilton and J.N. Ramdass, the Assistant Chief Local Democratic Affairs Officer,

examined the role and functions of Councillors, important legal perspectives and the task these community representatives face. Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the President A.K. Habibulla also made a presentation.

President Desmond Hoyte who declared the proceedings open, asked the Councillors to study and understand the spirit and letter of Local Government laws.

This would enable them to examine whether they are in keeping with contemporary thinking. Amendments could only be made if the need to do so is recognised.

Local Government today involves the community at large, as many citizens as possible, rather than the old system of control from Central Government.

The regulations provide for the establishment of standing committees for the management of Municipal affairs. Therefore people

who are not Councillors, could be co-opted to assist in various aspects, Cde. Hoyte said.

A lot of things can be done, including the setting up of houses for the needy, hostels for both the young and old, the establishment of social and community development centres, day care centres and communal feeding centres, among others.

And there is need to set up some mechanism for members of the public to be able to make suggestions and complaints about the development of their Municipalities and problems affecting them.

The President called for careful planning, prompt execution of projects and programmes and effective financial management.

Efficient management will require the establishment of systems and procedures and the proper management of staff, he told the Councillors, City Council staff and invitees.

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CSO: 3298/084

BRIEF

TRADE MISSION TO BELIZE, BAHAMAS--A five-member trade team led by Trade Minister Winston Murray left Georgetown yesterday afternoon for Belize and The Bahamas to explore possibilities for increased trade between Guyana and its two sister Caricom countries. During their discussions with officials in Belize and the The Bahamas, the Guyanese team will also explore possibilities for embarking on joint venture projects involving both the private and public sectors. The upcoming trade talks are part of continuing efforts to stimulate and expand intra-regional trade in the wake of the successful Mustique Meeting attended by President Desmond Hoyte and six of his Caricom colleagues earlier this year. Guyanese trade teams have already visited Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St Christopher and Nevis, St Vincent and The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. A local trade mission is expected to visit Jamaica in January next year. Officials from two local private sector companies--Michael Brassington of the Guyana Refrigerators Limited, who is also Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on the Private Sector, and Andrea Braithwaite of Ricksand Sari Limited--are included on the team. They will represent the interests of the local private sector. Other members of the trade mission are Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Avinash Bhagwandin, and Foreign Trade Officer Debbie Hardy. The team is scheduled to return to Georgetown on December 5. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 86 p 4] /9274

BANK TEAM TO BRAZIL--A guyanese team headed by Banking Manager of the Bank of Guyana, Cde Ivan Hamilton has left Georgetown for Brasilia to have discussions on financial and commercial cooperation. The team is expected to be in Brasilia until tomorrow, a statement from the Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC) said yesterday. The team includes Cde Steve Backer, General Manager of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank; Cde. K. Richmond, Manager of GNCB International Department; Cde A. Singh, Foreign Trade Officer in the Ministry of Trade; Cde Sonia Isaacs, Planner in the State Planning Secretariat and Cde B. Chan, Desk Officer at DIEC. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 86 p 1] /9274

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE--A memorandum of understanding for Canadian assistance to fishermen's co-operatives in Guyana was yesterday signed by Head of the Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC) Dr Cecil Rajana and Canadian High Commissioner Mr William Sinclair. The memorandum, signed in the boardroom of the DIEC, makes provision for engine spares to fishermen's

co-operatives to the value of \$325,000 (Cdn). The spare parts will be sold to fishermen and the receipts are expected to enhance funds for the Artisanal Fisheries Infrastructure Project. The agreement is an interim arrangement until the proposed Fishery Equipment Facility Project comes on stream, DIEC said in a statement. During the signing ceremony, Dr Rajana spoke about the importance of the fisheries sector in Guyana. He also expressed the hope that co-operation between the two countries will be developed in this area. Canadian High Commissioner Sinclair also expressed his country's willingness to co-operate with Guyana in economic and other fields. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 86 pp 4-5] /9274

SPANISH ENVOY.--Newly appointed Spanish Ambassador to Guyana, Mr Juan Lugo Roig, will present his credentials to Vice President Cde Ranji Chandisingh today at the Credentials Room, Presidential Secretariat. The accreditation ceremony begins at 10:00 hrs. Mr Juan Lugo Roig, a law graduate, entered the Diplomatic Corps in 1957. From 1962 to 1967, he served as Consul in New York and from 1967 to 1971, as the First Secretary of the Spanish Embassy in London. After working in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1971 to 1974, Roig was posted to Boston as Consul General. In 1978 he was sent to Nador where he served as Consul, and in 1983 as his country's Ambassador to Jamaica, where he will be based. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 86 p 4] /9274

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER--The accreditation of Indian High Commissioner designate to Guyana Mr Anoudrup Dorji Atuk takes place today, at the Credentials Room, Presidential Secretariat. Mr Atuk will present his Letters of Credence to Vice President Cde Ranji Chandisingh at 09:30 hrs. The Indian envoy, who will be resident in Guyana, joined the Indian Foreign Service in July, 1964. From 1965 to 1968 he served as Third Secretary in the Embassy in India in Manila and from 1968 to 1972 as First Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Gangtok. He was also First Secretary in the Indian Embassy in Brussels from 1975 to 1978, and from 1978 to 1981, Counsellor in the Embassy of India in Malawi. From 1981 to 1984, Mr Atuk was assigned as his country's High Commissioner to Malawi. Before coming to Guyana, he served as Ambassador of India in Tripoli. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

WPA LEADERSHIP--Mr Eusi Kwayana has sent a letter dated November 14, 1986, to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs advising that he is not the Leader of the Working People's Alliance. The Ministry had so described Mr Kwayana in correspondence sent to him recently, forwarding copies of the various Orders, regulations and other legislation promulgated in relation to the Municipal Elections which had been scheduled for December 8, 1986. Mr Kwayana did not disclose who is the leader of the WPA. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/084

HONDURAN CP LEADER PROTESTS U.S. PRESENCE

AU071452 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 28 Dec 86 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Rigoberto Padilla Rush, secretary general of the Communist Party of Honduras, by PRAVDA staff journalist Jan Skoda: "Preventing Fratricidal War"--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Skoda] The role of Honduras in the plans of American imperialism has increased in recent years, especially in connection with the escalation of the aggressive U.S. actions against Sandinist Nicaragua. What tactics and what strategy has your party adopted?

[Rush] The United States is looking for an alternative to the Panama Canal Zone, because the Panama Canal accord will expire soon. That solution is to be Honduras. In this new situation, our main task is to mobilize a broad patriotic and national movement to safeguard the country's sovereignty and political independence. We are trying to unite not only leftist political organizations, but also Social and Christian Democrats, liberals, and various groups in the Army and in the Catholic Church. We are convinced that this line is correct, and that a broad anti-occupation front is justified. We demand the removal of foreign military installations, the departure of American troops and Somozist mercenaries, as well as respecting human rights and democratic freedoms, and the clarification of the fates of persons who have disappeared in the past six years.

[Skoda] The U.S. Government's pressure on Honduras is very strong. What prospects are there as regards opposing the attempts to drag Honduras into a military conflict with the Sandinistas in Nicaragua?

[Rush] The objective of all our mass actions is to prevent war between Honduras and Nicaragua. However, the prerequisite is to unite trade unions, farmers' organizations, youth, the population of towns and the countryside, and progressive intellectuals under a single leadership. We have succeeded in setting up a coordination committee of people's organizations. At its center, the United Federation of the Working People--the FUT--is very active. It struggles for the departure of foreign troops from Honduras and against attempts to provoke a military conflict with Nicaragua or El Salvador. However, our main slogan is the struggle for the expulsion of the Nicaraguan counter revolutionaries from Honduran territory. The "contras," namely, are the tip of the spear of the North American occupation of Honduras. They are

doing the Americans' dirty work. Despite the fact that the American soldiers are not looking for conflict with the inhabitants of Honduras, 63 Americans have lost their lives since 1983. The conflict with the Somozists, who are raping our women, murdering men, and even Army officers and priests, who are holding up merchants, and robbing coffee growers, is acquiring dangerous dimensions. The Hondurans are unequivocally against having the "contras" on their territory. The Honduras Parliament is to debate two draft bills on the expulsion of the Somozists from the country next January. Should the parliament pass these draft bills, Honduran President Azcona, as the Army's commander-in-chief, will have to order Honduran units to drive the intruders out of Honduras.

[Skoda] How do you assess the Sandinist revolution as a Honduran citizen and a communist?

[Rush] Today we no longer speak about a structural crisis of Honduran society alone. Our country is in the grip of a general and institutional crisis. Our people no longer believe presidents, they do not believe in the effectiveness of elections, they are fed up with deception, corruption, the great amorality of the ruling class, and they demand a speedy rectification. Neither the government of President Azcona's current regime, nor the interventionist policy of Washington provide an alternative. The policy of Sandinist Nicaragua has genuine political and moral authority among the Honduran people.

/12913

CSO: 3248/152

GANJA ISSUE IN POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT; PNP HITS SEAGA CHARGES

Venezuelan Magazine Article

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PARLIAMENTARY Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Jeremy Palmer, read into the records of the House of Representatives yesterday an article from a Venezuelan-based magazine, imputing an alliance between top officers of the People's National Party and Jamaican and U.S. drug traffickers.

However, Members of Parliament, Mr. E.K. Powell (North-east St. Catherine) and Mr. Howard Wedemire (Southeast Westmoreland) questioned the ground and manner in which the article was being brought to the attention of the House.

The officers of the Party named in the magazine — *La Religion* — are: Mr. Michael Manley, President, Mr. P.J. Patterson, Chairman and Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary.

Conservative estimates, according to Mr. Palmer quoting from the article, placed the figure accepted by the Party well over US\$1 million.

"It is commonly held that drug trafficking has been seriously hurt in Jamaica thanks to the anti-narcotics efforts of the Seaga Government, for which reason the narcotics traffickers would like to see him lose power," Mr. Palmer said, reading from the article.

Mr. Palmer also cited a section of the article which re-

ferred to observers within the PNP who were "deeply bothered" by the implications that the Party was in league with and corrupted by outlaw elements of society. "They believe that the Jamaican drug barons, with their unlimited wealth, could evolve into a new powerful elite capable of making and breaking governments," he quoted the article as saying.

The article named three "top men of the Jamaican drug world" as Andy Chin, Arthur Sharpe and Kenneth Black. Mr. Black was said to have contributed \$100,000 to the PNP's annual conference in September.

Mr. Sharpe was described as being of great help during that conference when he hosted a dinner in honour of the PNP officials and foreign guests, including among whom were Soviets, Cubans and Nicaraguans.

In response to a query as to whether the matter was one of urgency and national importance to merit suspension of Standing Orders for it to be dealt with, Mr. Palmer said it must be a matter of grave national importance if in a foreign newspaper three persons who stood outside of the House and offer themselves to be part of an alternate Government are presumably linked to international drug trafficking and drug money.

Mr. Palmer said he was requesting the Minister of National Security to put to work the network of all investigative forces to bring some light to bear on this matter.

The Minister of National Security, the Hon. Errol Anderson, informed the House that the matter was not one for debate; and his Ministry proposed to investigate the contents of the article. "I am concerned as all of us are as patriotic Jamaicans on the effect of drugs on the very fabric of the society," Mr. Anderson said. There was a question of national image implied and bound up in the article, he said. Mr. Powell described the reading of the article as the "most dastardly thing to have happened" without the persons named having any recourse to legal action.

He asked: "Who from Jamaica sent this report to Venezuela? Has the mover found out the source in Jamaica that sent the report?"

Minister Bruce Golding: What kind of ridiculous thing is that?

Powell: Please don't interrupt. I think it's most un-nationalistic, most un-Jamaican to kick someone who has his feet tied. Does the mover of this motion think it's an honourable thing to Jamaicans who can't defend themselves? Mr. Powell said

he could not subscribe to drug taking or dealing in any shape or form and it was very necessary for the island to be kept clean of drugs of all kind.

But he said that Mr. Palmer's move was not honourable and he said he was asking him respectfully to withdraw the names which were publicly read into the report because it was not an honourable thing.

For his part, Mr. Wedemire said that no real motion had been brought before the House because it was not urgent or anything new. He asked what had happened to 22 names which had been kept in hiding for so long, referring to names the Prime Minister had claimed were linked to ganja. He said he could recall other publications carrying names which were never brought to the House.

This matter should not have been brought through the "back door" of

the motion for adjournment if it were urgent and of national importance. He said that it was the plight of rural Jamaicans who because of lack of representation had found themselves in the trade (ganja) which should be brought before the House.

Mr. Wedemire questioned what opportunity the Government was creating for the mass of people who were not in control of what was going on but who had to subsist.

He accused the Hon. Bruce Golding, Mr. J.C. Hutchinson, the Hon. Neville Gallimore, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith and the Hon. Neville Lewis as knowing some of the 22 names; but he withdrew the names as Mr. Golding pointed out that names should not be called when members were addressing other members of the House.

However, Mr. Wedemire said that members from the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Ann, St. Thomas,

Manchester and St. Elizabeth knew the names. Mr. Golding arose again, saying it could not be proper for Mr. Wedemire to be imputing motives which were suggested in his statement.

Mr. Wedemire said he withdrew all the comments he had made because it appeared that Members did not know anything about their country. During his contribution, Mr. Wedemire was constantly heckled by Members.

House Leader, Mr. Smith cautioned Mr. Wedemire that when he mentioned his name he ran a risk that was not a good one. He said while he appreciated that someone could get carried away, "please make sure you have your brain in motion before you put your mouth in gear."

Mr. Wedemire rose on a point of order. But the House was adjourned while he was on his feet.

PNP Denial

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY yesterday rejected charges by Prime Minister Edward Seaga that the party had links with the ganja trade and challenged him to substantiate the allegations.

PNP Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson was responding at a news conference at party headquarters in Kingston to allegations by Mr. Seaga at the JLP annual conference at the National Arena on Sunday.

Mr. Seaga had accused the PNP of having links with "ganja barons" through an organisation known as "The Green Growers Association."

Mr. Patterson however said the PNP was hearing about this organisation for the first time and challenged the Prime Minister to disclose who were the members, why it was formed and when it was supposed to have met with the PNP.

Accusing Mr. Seaga of a futile attempt to create a political alibi for his resounding defeat in the elections of July 29, Mr. Patterson said that the JLP's "lamentable record of performance" had driven them to em-

ploying the strategy of "the big lie."

Mr. Patterson said the PNP was against all dangerous drugs, including ganja.

He said: "The People's National Party challenges Mr. Seaga to substantiate his unfounded allegations or stand forever condemned as a political coward and a mischievous charlatan."

Mr. Patterson said dangerous drugs had created undisputed hazards of addiction and turned Jamaica into a major transshipment port for illegal drug traffickers, "as we are reminded by the recent case arising in St. James with a family

with JLP political association."

Mr. Patterson said that when the PNP came to power and again spoke of the drug menace it embraced all dangerous drugs and necessarily includes ganja and its sincerity in the fight against all drugs could not be doubted.

He said the PNP as Government between 1972 to 1980 initiated "Operation Buccaneer" which involved the co-operation of local and international narcotic agents.

It sought to suppress the trade and encourage farmers to move away from planting ganja to other

crops.

He said the PNP Government did not hesitate to use the army to put illegal airstrips out of operation.

"It recognised that the ganja trade endangered our security and was a major element in gun running," he said.

Mr. Patterson said this forceful action against the drug trade incurred the wrath of the ganja lobby, local and external, against the PNP in the 1980 election.

He said: "we know of JLP supporters who actively campaigned on the line that a change of Government 'would free up the ganja trade'. The earlier pronouncements of the Seaga Administration at first suggested turning a blind eye. On several occasions he proclaimed to the foreign press that ganja was essential to our economic survival. He instructed the banks to grab foreign exchange 'from whatever source, no questions asked'. His tune was drastically changed when it became clear that such a line would prevent him from receiving further financial aid from the USA."

Mr. Patterson said that the PNP's spokesmen on National Security and Public Utilities for years had complained that the airports and Air Jamaica were being used to traffic ganja, while security remained in the hands of an ex-JLP candidate, Peter Whittingham, who was convicted in

the United States for ganja offences.

He said: "Despite these several statements, Pearmel Charles did nothing until the horses had bolted and Air Jamaica fined thousands of US dollars and plane seized."

Mr. Patterson said the ganja trade presented a serious threat to tourism interests and export trade.

That is why the PNP had consistently urged that the security forces of the State rather than private firms be used to man these vital points.

He said: "Mr. Seaga and his cronies might forget, but we remember that the U.S. Government report published over a year ago, stated categorically that 'high placed Government officials' were involved in the trafficking of ganja. In spite of that report, no action was ever taken by the Jamaica Labour Party to clear itself."

He called on Mr. Seaga to state publicly which JLP representatives or candidate had been the subject of adverse drug reports, both by the local security forces and the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States.

Mr. Patterson said: "We are reminded of the so-called threat on his life (by ganja barons) when he claimed he knew the conspirators. Oddly enough, not one person has since been arrested."

He said the PNP, while in Oppo-

sition, had sought in a spirit of national reconciliation, to work out serious proposals to deal with the questions that beset the society.

"Seaga's response, true to form has been one of lies, innuendoes and distortion. The integrity of national life needs to be restored."

In the interest of this, Mr. Patterson said, they were calling on the JLP to (1) make public disclosure of the assets of its Ministers and Members of Parliament (2) to open the books on the Party's finances to public scrutiny. The PNP had already pledged to do the same, should Mr. Seaga accept, and (3) to respond immediately to the proposal of the President of the PNP for the establishment of the Committee on Crime, which would ensure that the campaign against drugs is successfully concluded.

He said Mr. Seaga had made serious allegations concerning meetings between the PNP and the "ganja man," and the existence of an organization called the Green Growers Association.

Since Mr. Seaga knows these things, Mr. Patterson said, he must tell the country when and where, and between whom these meetings have taken place.

He must also state the persons who have formed the Green Growers Association and for what purpose.

The PNP, he said, knew nothing of these matters.

Stone on Two-Way 'Propaganda'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 86 p 8

[Carl Stone column: "Of Stones and Glass Houses"]

[Text]

THERE IS a very old and wise saying that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. But apparently some of our politicians see no point in heeding that very wise counsel.

Quite apart from whether Mr. Seaga has the evidence to back up his

assertion, I am more than puzzled by the Prime Minister's "dramatic" announcement at his party's conference that the PNP is being financed by big drug dealers.

It was not so long ago that leftist pamphlets (originating in the U.S.) accused Mr. Seaga of being backed by ganja barons and of having designs to set up a drug republic here, shortly after he came to power.

Indeed, Mr. Seaga was harassed

by U.S. newsmen early in his term of office over those allegations...

Innocent statements made by Mr. Seaga, pointing to the foreign exchange contribution ganja earnings had made in keeping the country from total collapse under Manley in the 1970's, were interpreted by these U.S. journalists as confirmation of those wild and scurrilous allegations.

When the JLP government indicated early in its term of office that

no questions would be asked when ganja men brought in U.S. dollars to the bank that would also interpreted by some persons that Mr. Seaga would be going easy on the drug trade. This was again seen by some as evidence of a strong JLP drug connection.

Vulgar propaganda

The fact of the matter is that the suggestion that Mr. Seaga was about to install a drug republic here was little more than vulgar propaganda by republic U.S. backers of Manley who were upset over Manley's election defeat and were seeking to discredit the new JLP government in the USA.

The JLP did get support from drug men in the 1980 elections because of the degree to which the Manley government had been carrying out policies harassing the trade. The hostility of the drug men to the PNP in the 1970's was a product of the period in which Mr. Eli Matalon was National Security Minister. Eli systematically set about wiping out ganja airstrips and brought the anger and displeasure of the trade down on the PNP's head.

In seeking votes several JLP candidates in 1980 gave the impression that a new JLP government would be less hostile to the drug trade than the PNP. That was certainly the impression of many voters in Westmoreland, St. Ann, St. Thomas, St. Elizabeth and St. James as evidenced by my Stone's Poll findings in that period.

The ganja issue, however, was never a decisive issue in the election although it seems to have channelled some funds in the direction of the JLP.

Once the tables were turned and the JLP (due to U.S. pressure) had to step up its anti-ganja campaign, the ganja men turned against the JLP and have been giving support to the PNP.

This is an exact repeat of what happened in the 1970's.

Indeed, the 1985 report on drugs prevented to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee made the explicit claim on page 28 that "both political parties receive large portions of their money from supporters involved in drug traffi-

cing". The report was the subject of a *Gleaner* headline story last year. I do not recall any denial of the allegation of drug support for the JLP by Mr. Seaga.

Strong statement

The report went on further to claim that "Narcotics related corruption in the Government of Jamaica is pervasive". Now that is very strong stuff coming from Mr. Seaga's American friends at a time when his support in Washington was still riding high.

If you talk to voters in several parishes they repeat all kinds of stories linking prominent JLP persons with drugs. In several parishes too big drug men are identified by voters as backing the PNP.

Frankly, most Jamaicans believe that both parties get drug money and I am therefore puzzled as to why the leader of the JLP chose to engage in an act that many will see as "pot telling kettle say him black".

But Mr. Seaga is a clever fellow, even to the point of being too clever sometimes and thereby earning distrust. He could well be setting up the PNP by his claim. Knowing that his anti-ganja campaign has lost his party drug money and believing that drug money was a major source of financing for the opposition party, he probably figures that his statement has put Manley on the spot. If Manley comes out denouncing ganja barons, the PNP, he thinks, will lose the drug support. If he responds with a less than decisive denunciation of ganja barons, Manley may just lose credibility in the eyes of those who wish to see the drug business stamped out.

Distasteful

What I find distasteful about the whole affair is that Mr. Seaga is seeking to spread against Manley and the PNP the same vulgar propaganda that was directed towards him in 1981 with claims that the PNP might have designs on setting up a drug republic here. I don't think Mr. Seaga believes that suggestion and it is therefore irresponsible of him to spread it in the hope of earning a few votes. Having been a victim of these

dirty tricks, one would have thought that he would be the last person to engage in it himself. But politics is indeed a dirty business.

No major political party in this country can make any claim to having clean hands on this question of drug financing and drug support. So who does Mr. Seaga think he is fooling?

Perhaps Mr. Seaga is still very upset over the July election defeat and still believes that drug men were key to the PNP's success in that election. But the plain fact is that the JLP had seven to ten times more money than the PNP to run that election. Will the JLP leader care to tell us where all that JLP campaign money came from. Should there not be a law requiring public disclosure of contributions of more than \$1,000?

The fact is that Mr. Seaga's stringent anti-ganja measures developed and implemented in recent months are at variance with the views he used to express on ganja when he was leader of the opposition. In much the same way, the ambivalent muttering of the PNP, on the subject contradict what Eli Matalon was doing to cramp the trade in the Seventies. Any government that steps up a drive against the trade must expect to lose the support of the drug men and to run the risk of motivating them to give big money to opposition parties.

The more significant reality is that the JLP's anti-ganja drive reflects more the dictates and pressures of Washington and tears by Mr. Seaga that his bountiful flow of U.S. aid funds will be cut off unless he shows a more decisive approach to cramping the trade, than the realities of the Jamaican scene where many are living off the ganja trade in the absence of real economic options. Up to last year Mr. Seaga's backers in Washington were most unhappy with his performance against the ganja barons. The U.S. Foreign Affairs report makes the point that Mr. Seaga's government was less than fully committed to fighting the trade.

The government has since stepped up the pressure and Washington is now less dissatisfied. But the ganja

men are unhappy with Mr. Seaga and he is probably right that many have been pushed by those policies to increase support for the PNP in the hope that when the PNP gets elected that party will be less hostile to the trade.

Playing games

Frankly, the long and short of it is that the politicians have been playing games with the drug men but the drug men (out of desperation) keep giving them money in the hope that the next new government will brush

off Washington pressure and give them a little breathing space.

Like the promises made to voters, the hopes of the ganja men have been consistently unfulfilled every time but they have no option but to keep on trying.

So what is new in all of this? Is Mr. Seaga's revelation not just a repetition of the usual stale propaganda geared to win a few votes?

What I find sad is that Mr. Seaga could not find anything more important around which to centre his address to his party followers at this

time.

I also find it distressing and most inappropriate that our Prime Minister should be discussing confidential national security matters on a political platform simply to try to win a few votes. He has warned the society against undisciplined behaviour. I support his call but if he expects us to take him seriously then he too must set the highest standards of public conduct. A political platform is not the place to deal with confidential security matters. It is dangerous to play political games with national security issues.

Further PNP Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) has described as "another political concoction" allegations by a Venezuelan magazine that it had an alliance with ganja men and received money from such men.

The Party said that "rather than continuing with these wild and spurious allegations, the JLP must focus on the beam in their own eyes."

It said the timing of the article read into the record of the House of Representatives on Tuesday by Mr. Jeremy Palmer, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture suggested collusion between the magazine, *La Religion*, and the Jamaica Labour Party.

Mr. Palmer, after reading the article published in *La Religion* in October, asked for an investigation into the charges it contained, including one that top PNP officers — President Mr. Michael Manley, Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson, and

General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson — were fully aware that the Party took money and actually accepted money themselves.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. K.D. Knight, the PNP's spokesman on Security, denied the charges carried in the report and said it was noted that objections "to this misuse of Parliamentary privilege" were raised by members of the JLP in the House.

"This blatant abuse of Parliament for the dissemination of cheap propaganda is yet another example of the Government ruling as a political par-

ty and forgetting the welfare of the nation," the statement said.

The PNP statement said: "Mr. Knight noted that in the one-party debate certain JLP Members of Parliament were identified as having knowledge of ganja men, and again called on the Government to identify those high-ranking officials who were mentioned in the report on drugs to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, which stated that narcotics-related corruption in the Government of Jamaica is pervasive".

Criticism of Seaga

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 86 p 10A

[Franklin McKnight column: "JLP Seems To Be Digging Own Grave--How Can Mr Seaga Find the Ganja Men and the Police Can't?"]

[Excerpt] The deeper the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Government digs for mud to throw into the face of the People's National Party (PNP) for its own purposes, the more assuredly it seems to be digging its own grave.

When the campaign by the JLP to establish a link between the PNP and ganja barons, was taken to the country's Parliament, the point of this being a political game was passed. Then, the very Parliament becomes tarnished, its credibility comes under strain and its place in the arsenal to protect the rights of the individual citizens may be questioned.

It must be said here if there is one thing on which unity across the political spectrum is needed it is anti-drug activities (abuse, trafficking etc) and its corollary, crime. A national front needs to be presented to: ostracize and find the will and ways to put traffickers to flight; convince the potential user or traffickers of drugs that he proceeds at his own peril and against the moral authority of the nation; and to show the world that a poor nation can be self respecting and refuse to benefit from the death and maiming of its citizens which drugs bring.

Insincere

The substance of Mr. Seaga's statement to his Party conference at the Arena on Sunday was to tell this nation and the world that at the next

elections Jamaica could elect to govern this country, a party that is insincere about weeding out ganja and which is in fact in collusion with ganja barons. Political rallies and conferences may indeed be Mr. Seaga's worse enemies. Given enough time, he might well carve out for himself a place in history as the most divisive Prime Minister this country ever saw. Contrast the PNP's almost sophisticated approach in opposition.

This has not been a good year at all for the Jamaica Labour Party, flogged by the PNP in the July Local Government Elections, it seems to have even forgotten its sixth anniversary of a massive victory over the PNP six years ago, October 30. Its leader offers to go and the Party machinery is thrown at his feet for him to do whatever he wishes with it. And the Government which the JLP forms, is still — as was the case four years ago — speaking of things getting better in two or three year's time.

Drug barons

Mr. Seaga was unable to give any hope last week to the faithfuls at the Arena and those at home. So he made himself out (not the government) as the paragon of virtue when

it come to anti-ganja and anti-drug campaign. That may not endear him to people in many of the rural constituencies slipping out of the Party's hands, but that is not the concern here.

The PNP has sought to deal with the charges by Mr. Seaga but there are some questions left to be considered. According to Mr. Seaga, summonses were to be served on big drug barons. The police could not serve them, saying the men could not be found. Mr. Seaga, not the Minister of Security, called in the Police High Command, gave them the addresses and ordered "serve them in one week!" They are served! Nothing moves unless Mr. Seaga does it himself!

Strong case

The questions are: What about the intelligence of the security forces? Why can Mr. Seaga find ganja men and the police can't? If Mr. Seaga knows "every meeting" held by the Green Growers Association, presuming that any such thing exists at all, why isn't the police given the information and the strongest case be prepared against these men who would sell their country?

Defense of Drug 'Barons'

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 86 p 10A

[Dawn Ritch column: "One Way To Stop Gangsterism--Legalize Ganja!"]

[Text]

Tabled in the House last week was a report from a Venezuelan magazine which said that "... the People's National Party (PNP) eager to fund its return to power after six years of being in opposition, has begun to take large amounts of money from Jamaica and U.S. narcotics traffickers."

Another report to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee says "... both political parties (in Jamaica) receive large portions of their money from supporters

involved in drug trafficking."

And in a book published by Doubleday this year, called "The Underground Empire: Where Government and Crime Embrace", the following passages appear on page 449... "They're guys I know helped Seaga get into Jamaica down there, the prime minister. Bringing in ammunition, shooting people that needed to be shot. They smuggle guns from here to there and trade them for marijuana and come back.

"Well the key to the whole thing is the Jamaicans down there — like the marijuana fields are the only thing that gets the politics done. I

can fly into Kingston, Jamaica tomorrow and some guy'll come up to me and go 'Are you Americano, you got a plane?' They say 'We'll front you all the marijuana you want, you take it, fly it out, and then send us our money, we trust you.' They're trying to sell as much as they can to get money up for the politics."

Unreliable?

This is all becoming very peculiar. Where does the truth end, and the lies begin? Although the publication is the product of five years of research and written with the participation of the United States National

Security Agency, the CIA, DEA, and testimony from enforcement agencies and the traffickers themselves, I want to emphasize that I believe that the book could nevertheless be unreliable.

But it does demonstrate amply that everybody is accusing everybody else of participation in and/or profiting from the ganja trade.

This is utterly childish, because now neither political party dare legalize it. Neither the JLP nor the PNP in the foreseeable future will be able to act in the national interest to remove the brutal gangsterism associated with an illegal ganja trade, because neither wishes to be accused of acting in its own self-interest.

People's privacy

We need not be naive. The gangsterism is a product of not legalizing it. Drugs are as old as civilization and no government, church or any law anywhere at any time will ever be able to stop people from taking them.

The duty of our social and legal institutions is therefore to ensure that people's privacy, their rights and their lives are protected. And the first step is to dismantle all legislation which automatically make people criminals for earning a living and finding recreation the way they have since time began.

We've now got ourselves into a hopeless tangle by pursuing a war on drugs that we can never win.

Unless the authorities wake up to this reality and legalize the trade, drug traffickers will continue to get hold of our political parties and governments by the only means available to them — gross corruption. With blackmail and extortion and the subversion of every single institution upon which we depend for the maintenance of rule of law.

Ganja traders

This gangsterism must stop, and there is only one way to do it. Legalize marijuana. The ganja traders ought to be required to incorporate

themselves, paying taxes the way any other legal company would which makes a profit from the community, and behave like responsible corporate entities.

Then the Government can begin to set standards and regulate the industry to ensure that the good name of Jamaican marijuana is never again tarnished by the sale of hastily grown and shipped ganja as it was in the late 70's. Prior to the United States Government beginning to experiment so successfully with growing high quality sensimilla in the States, Jamaican marijuana had the highest THC content (8 percent) in the Western Hemisphere. The only thing in the same family as strong as ours was the Thai stick from the Far East.

Instead we've allowed the Americans to steal a march on us. They make us destroy our own fields by threatening to cut off aid to Jamaica, while their own growers have rushed in and now supply upwards of 70 percent of total domestic demand in that country.

More Votes To PNP

I really can't see the point of our policies here. When the Prime Minister accuses the PNP of having links to ganja barons, he drives more votes into their camp.

Ganja barons build police stations for their own and the community's protection, they pay school fees for children who don't belong to them, they are often better corporate citizens than many established companies, and private lucrative employment for hundreds of thousands of small farmers. Even at \$1.50 a dump, their product remains good value for money.

The PNP were equally foolish to deny the link. But the denial will probably hurt them less than the original accusation will Seaga. Hope springs eternal in the bosom of every ganja man that another government will be kinder.

Nor has any government won an election by campaigning for public decency. Public decency is what people can do for themselves; it doesn't answer the question of what a political party can do for them.

Besides, people tend to welcome opportunities for indecency as long as they are legal and controlled. The job of a government is to regulate these opportunities, not to deny them.

Another Call for Legalization

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 86 p 10A

[Morris Cargill column]

[Excerpts]

Up to now there has been a deafening silence from the authorities about the Piper Aztec plane which was calmly flown out of the airport at Montego Bay by one, or some say, two gunmen. This may be because the matter is being 'investigated'.

I am sure it is being investigated, but this word is too often used nowadays by the authorities who either wish to say nothing, or have nothing to say.

It is inconceivable that an aircraft could have been so easily taken in this way, obviously fuelled for the 600-mile journey to Florida, without a number of people having been bribed all along the line. As this column recently pointed out, the public hardly begins to be aware of the large scale of corruption which now exists in Jamaica. It is not only a matter of the ganja barons and their attendant gangsters. Rich criminals, and quite a large number of rich crooks who call themselves businessmen, can get through customs and out of customs almost anything they want.

The only efficient class of people in Jamaica today are the racketeers.

GANJA AND ARMS

Speaking of which, I read that the Jamaican Council of Churches has called on the Government 'to initiate and pursue a relentless campaign against the inflow of weapons'.

As I tried to point out in a recent column the importation of

a considerable quantity of arms in return for the export of ganja is a direct consequence of the gangsterism concerned with the export of ganja and the relatively new trade in hard drugs.

This, in turn, is a consequence of the U.S.A. having imposed upon us a prohibition which it should have kept within its own boundaries; a prohibition which in any event has signally failed, and will continue to fail. The largest producer of ganja, and of the more potent sensimilla is now the U.S.A.

Effective solution

The only effective solution to this gangsterism, as far as Jamaica is concerned, is to legalize ganja in Jamaica. Once that is done, and the growing and export of ganja becomes, in Jamaica, a legal enterprise, the gangsterism and the arms to promote it and the enormous corruption involved will become unnecessary and irrelevant.

The legalizing of ganja would have no effect, one way or another, upon its use locally. Indeed, from the internal point of view it is already in practice legalized. I do not know of any recent case in which anybody has been prosecuted for the personal use of ganja. It is used and sold openly to tourists in all the resort areas, especially in Negril. The local trade in ganja is as open as the trade in cabbages.

It is the attempt to frustrate its export that creates all the evils from which we now suffer and which will go on creating those evils at a continually accelerated pace.

/9274

CSO: 3298/086

CHANGING CHARACTER, PERCEPTIONS OF FRG VISITORS NOTED

Hamburg DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT in German 19 Oct 86 p 20

[Article by Harald Irnberger, Managua: "Flowers for Teacher's Pets"]

[Text] Our correspondent in Nicaragua observes those young visitors from the FRG who, full of goodwill and naive anticipation, try to establish personal contact with the revolution in the "land of the awakening." They are in for some disappointments.

A traveler on his way to Managua will first come across them in the depressing cafeteria of Havana Airport, full of eager anticipation prior to getting on the plane for Nicaragua. Usually clustered around the one person in the expeditionary group who speaks a little Spanish and being relatively close to their eventual destination, they are looking forward to what is soon to happen; their conversation clearly indicates that they fully intend their forthcoming experiences to be "neat" and "terrific." As a group, they give the impression of being about to embark on a cross-country hike, what with the backpacks and sleeping bags they have dragged along in their hand baggage—the kind of hike arranged exclusively for those at the head of the class.

As is the case for any generalization, this one too is only partially correct. But since the successful revolution of the Sandinistas, Nicaragua attracts primarily the avantgarde of intellectuals and leftist students, particularly of the "alternative" character. As is well known, West Germans are, in finding new travel destinations, what they once again could not quite become in soccer: world champion. And wherever there are travelers, a travel market is immediately established. The "alternative" [Greens, leftists] travel coordinator "Team-Reisen" has been advertising in the FRG leftwing press for several months its so-called "Soli-Reisen" to Nicaragua (just over 3 weeks for just over DM 3,000). Its competitor is named "Hansa Tourist" and specializes in travel to Eastern Europe and Cuba. It offers an 18-day package, consisting of a roundtrip flight from Berlin-Schoenefeld, and a tour through the "awakening country" for DM 3,130.

Since about 1983 when, (as a reaction to the U.S. invasion of Grenada) coffee and cotton pickers arrived from all parts of the Western world, filled with good will and immeasurable willingness to help, most travelers to Nicaragua have considered themselves, more or less, to be "brigadists."

Not everyone who sees himself in that light is accepted as such by the true brigadists, who come at their own expense and commit themselves to an actual work program for several weeks or months. Especially those from the FRG have gained a lot of prestige who, after the murder by the Contras of German physician Albrecht Georg Pflaum and the subsequent withdrawal of workers from obvious danger areas by official welfare organizations, specifically sought work locations beyond the "Pflaum border." The recent kidnapping of eight FRG brigadists by the Contras has further contributed to this increased prestige. And they do not want anybody else to bask in that reflected glory.

Those who travel to Nicaragua without considering themselves "brigadists," like to be called at least "internationalists," and define their status as "information-seeking traveler." In fact, persons traveling alone constitute a negligible minority; they are mostly people who come to visit an acquaintance who is a resident of the country. Most of the visitors from Europe and the United States travel in groups arranged by various political or church organizations, or, more recently, by commercial travel coordinators simultaneously posing as "Alternatives." As a general rule, these group tours provide not only previously organized flights and accommodations, but also excursions, cultural visits and the availability of native discussion partners.

These groups then travel on buses (clearly labeled "Turismo" for safety purposes) through industrial facilities, agricultural cooperatives, health centers and the head offices of Radio Sandino or the BARRICADA, visit a jail for former Somoza guards (usually the one in Tipitapa), drop by a basic literacy class and keep asking the same questions of patient officials of unions, womens' organizations and environmental protection agencies.

All this, generally speaking, is of benefit to the visitors only if they have been supplied with appropriate background information for this program and if they have competent guides. For this purpose the travel coordinators like to employ persons as tour guides who had previously served in Nicaragua as development aid advisors.

The "fun" part of the tour consists of a trip to the Pacific coast and the arts and crafts centers of Masaya and Granada. Hardly any of the visitors reach the problem areas on the Atlantic coast. Nevertheless, the difference between expectation and reality comes as quite a shock to the travelers.

The expectation is usually formed by the twin notion of "revolution in an exotic country." But there is practically nothing "exotic" in Nicaragua, in the sense of European picture book imagination, particularly in the cities. And in earthquake-ruined Managua that doesn't even include the palm trees, which certainly do grow here. The factories, cooperatives and health centers which are visited look the same as they do in all other developing countries: gray and depressing.

And the revolution? The first thing the traveler learns about it is its bureaucratic aspect. Every arriving passenger at Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport is required to fill out mountains of forms in the sticky heat of the administration building, to stand in endless lines and finally to subject himself to often pointless questioning by plodding officials. At the

very beginning, each visitor must exchange \$60.00 into the local cordoba currency--at a rate which, while constantly changing, is worse by several hundred percent than that in the "parallel currency exchange office," which is a half tolerated and half state-controlled institution.

Looking once again for our tourists (who do not want to be called that), we are sure to find them in the evening in one of those upper middle-class restaurants which, while not permitted to provide any gourmet fare, do not force their customers to abandon all their European eating habits. The visitors come here as a group also and prefer to sit around one big table. Or else they push a number of smaller tables together.

A smart local waiter immediately realizes that his job threatens to turn into hard work and knows better than to approach such a table. The visitors, expecting a high socialist work ethic in Nicaragua, let him know that they interpret this as a residual capitalist, or even Somozist-counterrevolutionary provocation, and soon depart, furious and unfed, to look for a decent Sandinist restaurant. In this, they have experienced, like many other "Nicas," a peculiarity which transcends ideological differences: If a problem arises, it is less important to solve it than to avoid, at least temporarily, any personal confrontation with it.

This attitude is particularly prevalent among the public bus drivers, who, if they see too many would-be passengers waiting at regular bus stops, simply keep going so as not to have their buses overcrowded. Also, they will stop at a safe distance from the bus stop only to discharge those passengers who wish to get off.

The locals have known for a long time what to think of most of the taxi drivers. Letters to the editor in BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO abound with complaints about the "criminals" exercising that profession--with little chance of improvement. In any case, tourists who have split from their main groups are left with the alternative of walking after many unsuccessful, desperate attempts to squeeze into an overflowing bus or to get a ride in a group taxi.

There is one way in which the travelers get their revenge on the locals. Their footgear is the despair of the agile bootblack who, suddenly eager for action, appears under a restaurant table. As hard as he might try, he cannot find a spot where he could quickly apply his black paste on those Gringo plastic sandals, jogging shoes, or suede hiking boots.

However, the visitors do not gain any prestige that way in a Latin American country like this one, where even the poorest man tries to show presentable footwear to a bootblack--which is the reason why many Latin Americans tuck the bottom of their trousers into their boot tops.

It is a shame that minor unfavorable impressions often serve to distort the image of Nicaragua in the mind of many visitors. However, those who, preferably on their own, travel to the areas of Matagalpa, Leon, Esteli, and Ocotal, will find breathtaking volcanic mountain scenery with wild jungles interspersed with laboriously established agriculture. In the villages, they will

come upon inhabitants who are friendly and in awe of the visitors, and competent, non-bureaucratic cadres of the Frente Sandinista. They will then learn to view the stresses and annoyances they endured in the jungle of the capital city in the proper relationship to the broader realities of the country.

Only one thing could ruin this experience: the Contras have started to lay mines in thoroughfares in remote areas, rather than to conduct ambushes.

9273/12859

CSO: 3248/64

ROBINSON DESCRIBES STATE OF NATION'S FINANCIAL SITUATION

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Jan 87 p 9

[Text]

PRIME Minister A.N.R. Robinson yesterday addressed the nation for the first time since he was sworn in. Robinson brought citizens up to date on what his new government had encountered as far as the country's finances are concerned. He also announced that the new Parliament will convene on January 12.

The following is from the text of the Prime Minister's address—

Ladies and Gentlemen: Just barely two weeks ago we had the result of what was, perhaps, the most momentous General Election in our history. It brought to an end a government that had been in power for over 30 years.

On the invitation of the President and in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, I have been engaged in forming the new government. Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries have been appointed and allocated their several portfolios. I have advised His Excellency that January 12 is an appropriate date for the inauguration of the new Parliament.

To assist in the orderly transfer of power, the Cabinet appointed a transition team consisting of some of our ablest technicians, headed by a senior Public Servant and including competent and experienced personnel from both public and private sector.

A major undertaking is an initial review of the composition of the boards of the state-owned corporations and utilities in the light of the expected resignations from all governmental boards and committees and announcements of new appointments will be made within the next two weeks.

The Cabinet also appointed a technical team headed by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, himself a former head of the Public Service, to review the state of the nation's finances. You will recall that from as early as April of this year I had been calling for a revision of the 1986 estimates of revenue and expenditure since it was clear, even then, that the bases

on which those estimates were founded would no longer hold—for one thing, the revenue windfall from devaluation was certain to be eroded by the decline in oil revenue.

At my request the team has submitted an Interim Report on the finances for the year 1986. The Report corroborates everything I have been telling you during the course of the election campaign. Faced with the collapsing nation's finances the government you voted out should have brought a revised budget to Parliament. It chose instead to bring no budget at all. Instead of an early election which would have been in the national interest, it decided to hold a late election which was definitely not in the national interest.

Party and personal considerations were once again put above the public interest.

The consequence is clearly displayed in the Financial Report I have in my possession.

1. The Budget Estimate of a \$1 billion overall deficit for 1986 has more than doubled to \$2.8 billion.

2. But the Budget projections for financing that deficit have not been fulfilled: The targets for local and foreign borrowing have not been met—in fact not one penny of the projected foreign loans has been raised.

3. Instead the government relied almost exclusively on borrowing from the Central Bank to the extent of over one thousand million dollars, and on the use of accumulated cash balances.

4. Revenue from oil is now less than one-half of the budget estimates for 1986—down from \$3.3 billion to \$1.6 billion.

5. Total Recurrent Revenue is down 33 1/3 per cent by almost \$2.6 billion from \$7.6 billion to \$5.2 billion.

6. Recurrent expenditure, on the other hand, has stood firm at \$6.4 billion, or a bare \$300m below the budget estimate.

7. Unpaid bills and undischarged liabilities remain to be settled (Liability to Port Pension Fund for example).

8. The financial reserves built up between 1974 and 1980 were completely wiped out.

Together with our new Government we now have the heavy responsibility of rescuing our country. Mercifully, the situation was not unexpected. Our appointment to lead you in the task of reconstruction has come not a moment too soon.

Let me personally express to you my deepest appreciation of your magnificent response during the past few weeks.

We are preparing to implement a number of the promises we made to you in our election manifesto and the election campaign.

I have seen the Drug Report and correspondence which passed between the Special Prosecutor who has now resigned and the former Prime Minister. The whole thing discloses an unbelievably scandalous state of affairs and will, we promise, be laid on the table in Parliament subject to any necessary safeguards.

During the election campaign, I was particularly moved by your response to my reference to a growing number of vagrants on our streets. Action will be taken in accordance with the recommendation of a Special Task Force which has been appointed by the Cabinet. Our aim is to bring this national problem under control within our first year of office.

While hard times are ahead, I urge you not to be despondent or depressed. Lift up your hearts and your heads! Together we will do our best for the nation.

May you have a deeply spiritual, progressive and enjoyable 1967. . . .

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CSO: 3298/098

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON POLICY TOWARD CARICOM

FL250035 Bridgetown CANA in English 2038 GMT 24 Dec 86

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 24 Dec (CANA)--The Caribbean Community (Caricom) could expect greater cooperation from Trinidad and Tobago's new government but no immediate decisions should be expected in the area of trade, External Affairs Minister Basdeo Panday said today.

They (Caricom states) can expect greater cooperation and a more responsive approach to the problems, Panday told CANA.

Panday declined to comment on the import restrictions and barriers of the past administration, saying decisions in this area would come after submission on the state of the nation's finances now being prepared by a cabinet-appointed committee.

The restrictions had led to a reduction in imports and concerted complaints from Caricom countries.

Panday, a lawyer and labour leader until his party's election victory last week, said that he believed that a lack of response had been one of the main problems of Caribbean countries in their past dealings with Trinidad and Tobago.

We must respond to the problems that are raised by our partners in Caricom, said Panday, a deputy leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

He said he believed his restructured ministry, including responsibility for exports, Caricom and tourism, would lead to more efficient dealings with the region. We shall be able to coordinate the work in a more meaningful way than previously.

Panday named improvement of trade and of cultural and political ties as priorities for his ministry, stating that one of the apparent problems in the past had been a habit to do nothing regarding Caricom in order to avoid doing anything wrong.

I think we have to set up the machinery to facilitate the kind of communication that I'm hoping we'd have with our Caricom partners. It is probably too soon to talk about any kind of political arrangements--those have fallen through and, maybe the answer is to deepen the trading relationship in the hope that that would lead to a tighter political unity.

Panday referred to political integration as a hornet's nest which must be tackled. He added: Caricom should operate as a single economic unit bargaining with larger markets and larger countries for sale of their products and if that should happen, then there wouldn't be the kind of infighting that takes place at the moment.

That is a problem that has never been tackled seriously, so that Caricom becomes a home market as opposed to a foreign market. Nations would have, of course, to be very broad-minded in that they must be prepared to give up as well as to receive and I imagine that has been the constraint towards deepening economic relations in the Caribbean, Panday said.

He said his ministry was drawing up an assessment of its resources before deciding on the future of the country's missions overseas.

Panday met today with foreign ambassadors and charges d'affairs accredited to Port-of-Spain.

Panday disputed opposition allegations that NAR plans to grant amnesty to all illegal Commonwealth Caribbean citizens living here would put pressure on the country's infrastructure, saying such people were already using local resources. We feel that they have been subjected to very inhumane treatment in that they have been kept in a state of in-betweenity and on a hook, so to speak....

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CSO, 3298/098

PAPER CITES NEED TO REORGANIZE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH

Curepe THE BOMB in English 26 Dec 86 p 13

[Text]

UNDER THE new NAR government the Police Special Branch (which spied on the opposition for 16 years since its formation in 1970), top officers should be reshuffled and the bodyguards of the former Prime Minister should not be working with new PM ANR Robinson.

It will be a clash of interest and loyalty.

The officers who were bodyguards to Chambers were hand-picked by the PNM and promoted up the ranks.

Overall, the Special Branch had kept tabs on all the big names who supported the UIF, Alliance, DAC, Tapia, ONR and now NAR.



Lance Selman is the man in charge of the SB squad and he was promised the big Police Commissioner's job held by Randolph Burroughs who is facing drug charges.

So Selman was very close to Chambers and many PNMites felt that bogus information fed to Georgie by Selman and his incompetent officers, led to the fall of the party in the general elections.

Chambers had implicit faith in Selman.

Earlier this year, Selman was called out from leave to accompany Chambers who went to Grenada to meet US President Ronald Reagan.

The role of the SB has not been clearly defined.

Officers spied on people who shared a different view from the PNM's. All Opposition candidates were followed day and night and dossiers three inches thick compiled on them.

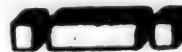
NAR candidates were made out as Communists in some of the reports.

The SB in the last general election followed every NAR meeting.

They took down the registration number of every vehicle close to the meeting and found that certain number plates were showing up at most NAR meetings.

The spy cops recorded all speakers at the NAR meetings and before midnight Chambers had a transcript at his home.

These men are all pro PNM.



Early Tuesday morning while the country was still drunk in NAR victory, two unmarked Police Special Branch vehicles went to the Ministry of National Security and removed several boxes of information which were fed to National Security Minister Overand Rabbit Padmore.

The information were on the NAR, ULF, DAC, Tapia and NAR.

Reports reaching the BOMB said that top SB officer Mervyn Guisseppi supervised the removal of the classified spy ments.

With the defeat of the PNM, all PNM-appointed cops including Lance Selman have gone into hiding.



Selman should be transferred to another department making way for a neutral officer to take charge of the SB and to provide the best security for this country's first gentleman Prime Minister.

On another police note, the new National Security Minister and the Police Service Commission should settle the acting position of Clive Sealey.

Sealey, nearing retirement should go out on the highest note befitting a police commissioner.

OPPOSITION LEADER MANNING SCORES ROBINSON SPEECH

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

PRIME Minister A.N.R. Robinson's New Year's message was inconsistent with the spirit of reconciliation, promised by his government.

So said Opposition Leader Patrick Manning at a press conference held at his office yesterday. In fact, the Prime Minister's message caused Manning "reluctantly" to depart from that "democratic tradition of an incoming administration enjoying a honeymoon free from criticism" and to take issue with several of Robinson's statements.

In Robinson's New Year's address, he gave an account of the state of the economy. Manning made it clear that it was not the "facts" he was disputing, it was the "vitriolic language" employed and the allegation and conclusions drawn by Robinson.

"Regrettably, I now feel constrained in the national interest to respond to the Prime Minister's New Year's message which appeared to be inconsistent with a process of reconciliation, consolidation and forward movement," he said.

Manning cited specific instances — Robinson had accused the PNM of puffing party and personal considerations "above the public interest."

"A serious allegation," Manning contended.

Robinson also referred to the previous administration in terms like "the government you voted out ended its ignominious term of office with a whopping deficit of \$2.8 billion." Man-

ning contended that this was "campaign language."

Manning also denied, too, Robinson's statement that the government relied on borrowing from the Central Bank.

He spoke, too, of the former administration's efforts to tell the nation the economic facts from the time the boom had stopped. "This country has never been left in any doubt of its changed economic circumstances from the exceptionally prosperous decade of the 70s," he said, referring to successive budgets and explicit governmental measures, all of which "served to underscore this point." He quoted, too, from the Independence Day message of the former Prime Minister George Chambers, which spoke of the revenue shortfall in the first half of 1986.

Manning stressed that despite the admittedly difficult economic circumstances, the out-going administration left this country a "proud legacy, attested to this country's high international credit rating and by the fact that unlike other oil exporters, it was not borrowed to the hilt. He argued that the former administration had begun to steer the country in the direction of greater foreign exchange earnings as a result of a new thrust in export performance and tourism.

Manning reiterated that he was committed to working with the new Prime Minister and his government in the national interest.

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CS0: 3298/098

YOUTH LEAGUE CALL FOR PNM MASS-FIRINGS DEFEATED

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

A MEMBER of the People's National Movement Youth League called for the resignation of the entire executive of the party at Sunday's general council meeting.

The meeting at the party's Baisier House headquarters was called to consider the resignation letter of former Prime Minister and political leader of the PNM George Chambers.

The call for the resignation came in the form of a motion after Chambers' resignation was accepted by the party. However, the motion was defeated.

In the light of Chambers' resignation, the three posts of deputy political leader "fall by the wayside," according to party secretary Alvan Quamina. Quamina said this would be the case until a new political leader is elected. He said the party's restructuring process could include an adjustment to the posts of deputy leader to make them elective positions.

He explained that the resignation was accepted because it came two days after the party's defeat at the polls "when considerable thought had been given to its implications. "The general consensus was that the party at all levels of its operation had to accept the blame," he said.

"The party decided that it should respect the views of the political leader," he said.

Chambers will be informed of the party's decisions by letter from either the chairman or the general secretary. In the meantime, letters will go out to the constituencies, summoning party groups to the February convention and inviting nominations from the party units.

"Any member of the party can be nominated to any post by the party groups," he said.

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CSO: 3298/098

FORMER HIGH COURT JUDGE TO REPLACE CLARKE AS PRESIDENT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 4 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

RETIRED HIGH COURT judge, Noor Hassanali, will be the next President of Trinidad and Tobago.

But he is not likely to assume office before the end of May. In the interim, President Ellis Clarke, whose term of office is due to expire at midnight on January 28, is expected to be asked to serve until the new appointment comes into effect.

Justice Hassanali, who served as an Appeal Court judge from 1978, reached the age of retirement in August, 1983, but was retained for an extra year to complete outstanding judgments. He is a former student of Naparima College, San Fernando.

The *Sunday Express* understands that Justice Hassanali was one of two men, who had been short-listed by the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government for the presidency. The other was Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Dr. Roy Ne-hall, who now resides in western Canada.

Sunday Express investigations revealed that the decision to pursue the option of extending President Clarke's term was taken in the interest of a smooth transition of power.

The matter of the presidency and the extension of President Clarke's term is expected to come up in the new Parliament, which will be convened on January 12.

The new Parliamentary term is expected to be attended with historic pomp and ceremony. Reports reaching the *Sunday Express* indicate that the opening session of Parliament will include an address by the President, in the manner of a Throne Speech, and will be followed by an ecumenical mass at Woodford Square, Port of Spain, to be conducted by representatives of the Inter-Religious Organisation.

Meanwhile, Speaker-designate of the new House of Representatives, Nizam Mohammed, will hold a press conference tomorrow from 2 pm at the Red House, Port of Spain, when he is expected to give some idea of the new style he is likely to bring to that House.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY FORMING TO CONTEST NEXT ELECTION

Curepe THE BOMB in English 19 Dec 86 p 11

[Text]



Dr. Mc Sween's party symbol for the 1991 elections.

A NEW political party calling itself the Progressive Workers Democratic Movement (PWDM) is already preparing to contest the 1991 General Elections.

The political leader, Dr. Pelham Andre Mc Sween said although his party has been in existence for the past six years, it will only be officially launched on December

27, at Mango Avenue, Santa Rosa Heights, Arima.

Dr. Mc Sween was featured in the BOMB earlier this year when he claimed he had not practised his profession for the past five years because the Medical Board of T&T did not want to grant him permission.

He told the BOMB: "When I came back home from the States and saw the deplorable state the country was in, I made calls to my friends, (Trinidadians who served in the Vietnam war), and we decided to form a party.

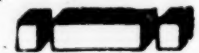
"The party was formed over the phone, but that's as far as it reached until this year when I decided to have an official launching.

"I could not go ahead with plans to make the party active because in the 1981 General Elections, I was recommended to the PNM party by the late Rudolph Charles as a nominee to fight the Laventille seat.

"Although I did not get a chance to contest the seat, I did not rule out the PWDM, and only this year, I decided to have the launching," said

Mc Sween who was a paratrooper with the U.S. Army.

The 38-year-old medico said he's preparing from now to contest the 1991 General Elections, and he's confident that his party will win.



"This party is proposing to provide the nation with more jobs, more food on the table, care for elderly, healthy environment and university education open to all," he said with a serious note.

Already, the PWDM has five executive members (including Mc Sween) and the political leader said after his official launching, he expects the membership to start pouring in.

Maybe the PWDM will have better luck than the PPM, and NJAC in the 1991 elections!

SUGAR WORKERS UNION TO PRESS NEW GOVERNMENT FOR WAGE INCREASES

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

ALL TRINIDAD Sugar and General Workers Trade Union General Secretary Sam Maharaj disclosed yesterday that the union intended to make certain proposals to the new government to resolve the present wage dispute with state-owned Caroni Ltd.

Maharaj spoke at the commencement of the 1987 sugar crop at the Montserrat Field in Central Trinidad in the presence of Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers. Said Maharaj: "We will be making certain proposals very early to the new government with a view to having these problems resolved so that it will serve not only in helping the company to achieve its goals but boost the morale of the workers."

Maharaj said the union had always lent its cooperation to the company in harvesting the canes. He referred to the fact that sugar workers performed well, even though they had not received a "proper" wage increase since 1982.

Said Maharaj: "We are convinced that within the sugar industry there are

enough resources for the industry to transform itself. The industry has the resources to turn itself around. What it needs is the direction and management to do it."

The union leader urged all workers to report immediately any incidence of cane fires, corruption and waste in the company. Maharaj said that every worker must be a cane fire warden prepared to report anyone setting fields on fire.

Trinidad Islandwide Cane Farmers Association (TICFA) chairman Seepersad Arjoonsingh also pledged the cooperation of cane farmers in reaching the 1987 sugar target.

Arjoonsingh said: "The cane farmers also have serious problems which we intend to take up directly with the Minister. I intend to call for a special meeting with Mr Myers in order to settle such problems as the lands earmarked for cane farmers, the interim sugar price and access roads."

TURKS AND CAICOS

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNOR--British authorities have appointed M. J. Bradley to the post of governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Mr Bradley of Belfast, Northern Ireland, will replace Governor C. J. Turner, whose term expires 10 January. In 1973, Mr Bradley was appointed to the United Nations as legal adviser to the Caribbean Government of Antigua. Bradley also served as attorney general of the Turks and Caicos for 4 months in 1980. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Dec 86 FL] /9274

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